

Thatcher begins Polish visit

WARSAW (AP) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher arrived in Poland on a visit that may give officials a chance to justify their hardline treatment of the Solidarity trade union by pointing to Thatcher's success in subduing unions in Britain. Mrs. Thatcher was greeted by Prime Minister Mieczyslaw F. Rakowski, the official PAP news agency reported. The visit has an important diplomatic dimension for Poland. Officials hope the first ever visit by a British prime minister to Poland will pave the way for western credits to help the country's debt-plagued economy. Thatcher has a tightly packed three-day schedule that includes meetings with the most important players in the Polish political scene before her return home Friday night. She drove into the Polish capital for a first round of talks with Rakowski, a veteran anti-Solidarity politician. Thatcher was also meeting Cardinal Jozef Glemp, primate of Poland's powerful Roman Catholic Church which has been trying to persuade Solidarity and the government to hold talks on the country's future. The British officials said Thatcher had no intention of commenting on the latest government-Solidarity dispute — over an official decision to close the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk (see page 8) until she had met both sides.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي

Superpower radar row lingers

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Wednesday three days of talks with the Soviet Union had failed to alter the U.S. view that a radar complex in Siberia violates the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and must be torn down. The dispute over the radar near Krasnoyarsk has impeded a proposed superpower agreement halving long-range nuclear weapons. State Department spokesman Charles Redman said: "Based on what we heard to date we continue to believe strongly that the U.S. criteria can only be met by dismantlement of the radar and destruction of the transmitter and receiver buildings, including their foundations." He made his comments after U.S. and Soviet technical experts concluded a meeting in Geneva proposed by Moscow to lay out a proposal to transform the radar into an international space centre. "We had hoped they were prepared to meet U.S. concerns about the radar," Redman told reporters. "We listened to what they had to say. Unfortunately, the Soviet experts did not have any new proposals that addressed our concerns and could not answer U.S. questions about how they would correct the Krasnoyarsk radar in a verifiable manner that meets U.S. criteria," he added.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Kremlin favours summit soon

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov indicated Wednesday that Moscow wanted an early summit meeting between Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev and the winner of the U.S. presidential election. "We are for the continuation of dialogue," Gerasimov told a news conference. "We are against artificial pauses." Gerasimov's remarks were in response to questions about a statement by Republican U.S. presidential candidate George Bush that he would like an early summit with Gorbachev (see page 8).

'Egypt's Revolution' trial adjourned

CAIRO (AP) — A state security court Wednesday adjourned for two months the trial of 20 men charged with attacks against U.S. and Israeli diplomats after the 18 defendants in custody pleaded innocent. No pleas were entered for the two most notable defendants, a son and a nephew of Gamal Abdul Nasser. Both left Egypt in mid-1987, six months before charges were filed last February.

Hirohito gets another transfusion

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Emperor Hirohito, critically ill for seven weeks, was given more blood Wednesday and his doctors said his veins were extremely swollen from massive transfusions. Palace spokesman Kenji Maeda said Hirohito received an undisclosed amount of blood, aimed at curbing his extreme anaemia, not because he had lost more blood.

Heiress to put up Marcos bail

NEW YORK (AP) — Tobacco heiress Doris Duke will put up the \$5 million bail Imelda Marcos needs to return to Hawaii and her husband, former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, a lawyer said Wednesday. Donald Robinson, attorney for Miss Duke, said she would post more than \$5 million in municipal bonds to secure the bail of Mrs. Marcos, who is charged with racketeering along with her husband (see page 9).

Waldheim condemns Israeli actions

KUWAIT (R) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, in remarks published Wednesday, condemned Israeli measures to quell the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "Austria strongly rejects the current Israeli practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories and asks Israel to stop its violations of Palestinian human rights," Waldheim told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) in an interview. Waldheim later left for Turkey.

Angola president ends Morocco visit

RABAT (R) — Angolan President Jose Eduardo Santos left Morocco Wednesday after an overnight visit during which he discussed southern African issues with King Hassan. The Moroccan News Agency (MAP) quoted Dos Santos as saying he was satisfied with the talks which covered peace efforts in southern Africa, Angola and independence for South African-ruled Namibia.

Syria denies role in plot in W. Germany

NICOSIA (AP) — Syria Wednesday denied involvement with Palestinians arrested in West Germany on suspicion of plotting extremist acts, according to a statement by the Syrian embassy here. "Syria strongly condemns any form of terrorist action. It also condemns planning or premeditating such action," the statement said. The statement said accusations of Syrian involvement in the alleged plot were the product of "circles hostile to Syria."

Prince Sihanouk meets U.S. official

PARIS (AP) — Kampuchean resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk met Tuesday in the French capital with a top U.S. State Department official who said the United States believes the prince should lead any new Kampuchean government emerging from peace talks. Paris will be the site of talks over the weekend involving Sihanouk, the former Kampuchean chief of state, and Kampuchean Prime Minister Hun Sen, the third such meeting in France in the past year.

Pakistani politician favours nuclear bombs

ISLAMABAD (R) — A senior Pakistani politician and contender in this month's elections said Wednesday that Pakistan should make nuclear bombs if needed for its defence. The PPI news agency said Punjab province Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, told a Lahore campaign meeting: "We will make them, and maybe in hundreds, just to defend our sacred homeland."

Sultan of Sokoto dies aged 85

LAGOS (R) — The sultan of Sokoto, spiritual leader of Nigeria's Muslims, died Tuesday night aged 85, his family announced. Sir Siddiq Abubakar III who last June celebrated his 50th year on the throne of Sokoto caliphate was an influential figure in Nigeria's post-independence political and religious life.

Algerian congress set for Nov. 27-28

ALGIERS (R) — The sixth congress of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) will be held Nov. 27 and 28 to approve political reforms in Algeria in the wake of bloody riots early in October, the news agency APS reported Wednesday. The congress will draft political reforms to be submitted later to popular vote (see page 2).

Dukakis discounts opinion polls

WASHINGTON (R) — Democrat Michael Dukakis proclaimed Wednesday that his campaign was picking up steam and that he will win the U.S. presidency six days from now despite polls that show him far behind Republican George Bush. "You know we're moving. You can sense it, you can feel it, you can taste it," he told campaign workers at a rally in Minneapolis, where he had stopped to visit his wife Kitty, who was in hospital with a viral infection.

Qatar prepares to open Moscow embassy

BAHRAIN (R) — A Qatari official left for Moscow Wednesday to review preparations to open an embassy there after the two countries set up diplomatic relations in August. The Qatari News Agency quoted Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Sheikh Hamad bin Saleh Al Thani as saying he would also discuss cooperation with Moscow in various fields.

Bahrain, Qatar report locust sightings

BAHRAIN (AP) — Locusts have reached the central part of the Gulf where both Bahrain and Qatar. Wednesday reported sightings of small groups. Over 100 locusts swarmed across the northeastern coast of Bahrain late Tuesday, flying in from the north where they have invaded Iraq and Kuwait, said Hassan Abdul Karim, director of farmer services of the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture.

93 children win prizes in literary, arts competition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday attended the presentation of prizes to children who won in a literary and arts competition organised by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in cooperation with the Jordan Press Foundation/Al Ra'i. GUVS Executive Council Chairman Abdullah Khatib delivered a speech saying the competition represented Jordan's continued care for its children. Stressing that the competition was designed to consolidate values in children, Dr. Khatib said economic and commercial institutions contributed to the success of the competition by offering the prizes.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday presents a prize to one of the winners of a literary and arts competition organised by the General Union of Voluntary Societies in cooperation with the Jordan Press Foundation (Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times)

Jordan Press Foundation Director General Dr. Radi Al Waqfi delivered another speech noting that the competition was intended to urge the children to participate in every constructive act and to sincerely contribute to serving their homeland.

A girl who won the first prize delivered a speech expressing profound appreciation for Queen Noor's patronage of the event and said "the step is a continuation of the unwavering efforts Her Majesty is exerting on the local and international levels for the children of Jordan."

Queen Noor presented the prizes to the 93 winners. The event was attended by the minister of culture and national heritage and the minister of social development.

Likud courts religious parties to form rightist government

TEL AVIV (R) — With no clear victor in Israel's general election Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Wednesday sought the backing of strengthened religious parties for a right-wing coalition.

Neither Shamir's Likud Party nor Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's Labour Party won a clear majority in Tuesday's general elections.

But Likud, far-right parties and the long-leaning religious parties won 64 out of the 120 seats in parliament.

Likud ministers said they were confident they would be able to form Israel's next government, but the religious parties holding the balance of power with 18 seats, a major surge from 12 — played Likud and Labour off one another.

"The prime minister asked us to participate with him in setting up a government," Shas party leader rabbi Yitzhak Peretz said. "We said it depends on the degree to which Likud will march to our demands."

His ultra-orthodox party, which is the largest after Likud and Labour with six seats, represents observant Jews of mainly

Middle Eastern and North African origin.

"It is more reasonable to assume that Likud will form the coalition but we cannot rule out the possibility that the government will be formed by Labour with the help of the religious parties," Peretz said.

Peres had similar talks with religious Knesset (parliament) members but Israeli political analysts said the religious bloc was probably talking to Labour mainly to extract a higher price from Likud.

The four elected religious parties said they would demand legislation to enforce public observance of the Jewish sabbath and seek control of marriage ceremonies and the registration of converts as Jews.

They were also expected to seek money for their schools and institutions as well as several cabinet seats.

Such power for the orthodox seemed likely to cause friction between Israel and America's powerful 5.5 million Jews, most of whom belong to less strict reform or conservative movements.

FOLLOWING IS Israel army radio's projection of seats in the new 120-seat Knesset based on results from 99.9 per cent of the 4,840 polling stations in parliamentary elections.

The right:
Likud bloc — 39
Tebiya — 3
Tzomet — 2
Mokedet — 2

The religious:
Shas — 6
National Religious Party — 5
Agudat Israel — 5
Torah Flag — 2

The left:
Labour Party — 38
Mapam — 3
Citizens Rights Movement — 5
Shinui Centre Movement — 2

Arab-oriented:
Hadash-Communist — 5
Progressive List for Peace — 2
Arab Democratic Party — 1

Iraq ready for immediate POW swap if Iran agrees

GENEVA (Agencies) — Iraq said Wednesday it would begin immediately repatriating 30,000 Iranian prisoners of war (POWs) independently of current peace talks if Iran reciprocated.

"We must separate the humanitarian issue from the process of negotiations," Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told reporters after 90 minutes of talks with the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross

(ICRC), Cornelio Sommaruga. Iraq was ready to start the repatriation as requested by the ICRC "provided that Iran accepts likewise the ICRC initiative," the foreign minister said.

Iraq has taken the position in recent weeks that a complete exchange of prisoners should not be considered independently of the overall United Nations plan for Gulf peace, which starts with a withdrawal of troops.

But Iran has not rejected the Red Cross request out of hand, ICRC spokesman Jurg Bischoff told Reuters.

The Iranians have said they are studying the proposal and will accept in principle one part of it which calls for the reciprocal exchange of sick and wounded prisoners. Fifty such prisoners were exchanged Sunday.

Iraq rejected Wednesday the Iraqi proposal saying a troop withdrawal should come first, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

"At a time when there is the threat of resumption of active war, the most urgent issue is the withdrawal of forces in order to strengthen the ceasefire," IRNA quoted the spokesman of Iran's foreign ministry, Morteza Sarmaadi, as saying in Geneva.

Conference sources said Iran might have been reluctant to give in immediately on the prisoners issue in order to press Iraq to withdraw from its territory.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was scheduled to meet Sommaruga Thursday.

Aziz said agreement at the Geneva peace talks on settling the eight-year conflict might take time.

"States do need some time to reach agreement, especially when we have such a difficult and complicated case," he said.

Hostilities ceased when Iraq and Iran agreed to a ceasefire Aug. 20.

GCC backs league session on Lebanon

RIVADH (Agencies) — Foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and its five partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) warned Wednesday that the situation in Lebanon was worsening and backed the call for an Arab summit on the issue.

The ministers issued a press communique at the end of the two-day meeting of the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan has called for an emergency Arab summit on Lebanon, due to the deepening partition after 13 years of civil war. Two governments now rule in Beirut: one civil and one military.

"In view of the grave situation in Lebanon and what it faces of a threat to its unity, sovereignty and independence... the (GCC) council welcomes the initiative and affirms the importance of preparing for the summit with a preparatory Arab League Council session," said the statement.

The GCC communique warned that the situation in Lebanon also threatened to lead to "tension in Arab relations."

Osseiran to sack Aoun

Lebanon's defence minister said Wednesday he would sack the country's army commander Michel Aoun, who also heads the rival military government.

Political sources said this would split the army, which is already divided, and increase the possibility of a military showdown.

King, Iraqi leader hold consultations

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein opened talks here Wednesday shortly after the King's arrival on a working visit.



His Majesty King Hussein is received upon his arrival in Baghdad Wednesday by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (Petra wirephoto)

The two leaders held a closed meeting which was preceded by a lunch hosted by the Iraqi president.

Earlier, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King's visit was within the framework of consultations and coordination between Jordan and Iraq on the latest developments in the Arab scene.

The King was received upon arrival by President Hussein.

Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) Vice-Chairman Izzat Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister and RCC member Taha Yassin Ramadan and senior officials.

The King was seen off from Amman by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime

Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, ministers, the King's private chamberlain and senior civilian and military officials.

Officials discuss health education at school level

AMMAN (Petra) — Inclusion of health education courses in Jordanian school curricula was discussed at a meeting held at the Health Ministry Wednesday attended by representatives of different ministries and three U.N. organisations.

Health Ministry's Primary Health Care Department Director Suleiman Qub'ain, who addressed the meeting, emphasised the need to promote health education at the school level in implementation of directives by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Health care is an integral part of the country's social and economic development, Qub'ain told the meeting, which was attended by representatives of the ministries of education and health, and the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The Ministry of Health is introducing programmes in schools in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the three U.N. organisations to promote public health awareness in general, and specially at schools, Qub'ain said.

He said that the plan was being adopted in implementation of recommendations passed by the first national educational conference held here last year.

Qub'ain said that plans were being made to incorporate the school health programmes with the Ministry of Health's general primary health care services, which would allow school children to have periodic examination and vaccinations.

Representatives of the U.N. agencies also addressed the meeting explaining that the new courses at schools would entail teaching students about safe environment, social life and services and activities that would promote general health.

Palestinians vow fiercer uprising

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinians said the strong showing of right-wing parties in Israel's elections would fuel a fiercer uprising in the occupied territories, where troops Wednesday shot to death one Palestinian and wounded 15.

Nablus businessman Said Kanaana said Tuesday's balloting meant the Israeli electorate had rejected a peace process and was determined to hold onto all of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It's obvious Israelis don't want peace," said Kanaana. "But we will hit back. The moderate voice in the Palestinian camp is finished."

Wednesday's death raised to 316 the number of Palestinians killed in the nearly 11-month-old uprising.

The confrontations came as Palestinians throughout the occupied territories shattered their shops and halted transportation

to mark the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

Hanna Siniara, editor of the daily Al Fajr, said Israeli voters who gave the Likud bloc and its right-wing allies 46 seats in the 120-member parliament had voted for "more tension and confrontation."

"The Palestinians will now only intensify their efforts to end the occupation and achieve national rights," Siniara said.

Among the hardline parties to win mandates was Mokedet ("homeland"), which advocates expelling Palestinians from the occupied lands.

Siniara said that although most Palestinians reacted to the balloting with gloom and resignation, many nevertheless believed that a right-wing government would be able to break free of the uneasy holding pattern forced on the outgoing coalition of Labour and Likud.

Scud-Bs in Kabul raises U.S. concern

WASHINGTON (AP) — The arrival of at least two new Soviet missiles in Kabul has raised U.S. concern about Pakistan's security and whether there will be a delay in the second stage of the Soviet army's withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The SS-1 Scud rockets were displayed in the Afghan capital after Under-Secretary of State Michael Armacost complained to Soviet Ambassador Yuri Dubinin Monday about sending long-range TU-26 backfire bombers into combat there for the first time.

The Soviets are backing the Afghan government against U.S.-armed rebels in a war that has raged for nearly nine years. On Aug. 15, the Soviets completed the pullout of more than half the

100,000 troops that had fought alongside the pro-Moscow government.

The remaining troops must depart by Feb. 15 under an agreement signed in Geneva last spring. The Soviets hinted recently that the second stage would begin Nov. 15. But a U.S. official, who spoke Tuesday on condition of anonymity, said that might be delayed.

He also said the United States would see to it that the rebels had an "adequate" arsenal, although missiles to match the Scuds probably would not be provided through Pakistan.

Two Scud-B missiles, which have the range of about 280 kilometres, were displayed in Kabul, the official said.

Jordan, W. Germany discuss agriculture cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — West Germany's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Helmut Schaefer Wednesday discussed with Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director General Mureid Al Tal bilateral cooperation in agriculture.

Special attention was given to West Germany's assistance to JCO's various cooperative societies in providing them with farm equipment and seeds.

West Germany's assistance has contributed to the JCO's operations and the cooperative movement in Jordan, Tal said at the meeting.

Tal expressed hope that the West German government would extend its contribution to a project to promote cooperative communication started in 1982 involving training of Jordanian personnel in cooperative operations.

Schaefer expressed appreciation of the JCO's achievements and said that West German assistance would be continued through the project until 1990.

He said there were prospects of carrying out a more advanced project in cooperative work in cooperation with other Arab countries to be financed by West Germany.

Carlucci in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Frank C. Carlucci arrived in Israel Wednesday on a three-day visit.

Carlucci was to visit an army base along the Lebanese border, observe military exercises and tour an aircraft factory Thursday. On Friday he has meetings scheduled with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

In Cairo Carlucci said Wednesday the United States will continue to work for peace in the Middle East whichever government wins the Israeli elections.

"No matter which party emerges as victorious and what sort of government is formed we can to support the peace process," he told a meeting of American businessmen.

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Algeria frees detainees ahead of referendum

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian youths jailed during bloody riots last month were released from prisons Wednesday, the day before Algeria was due to deliver its verdict on government proposed reforms intended to end unrest.

Eyewitnesses said about 20 young men walked out of Al Harrach jail in Algiers shortly after dawn. There were reports of people being freed at prisons elsewhere in the capital and the country.

President Chadli Benjedid ordered freedom for people arrested during a week of street

clashes with security forces, which erupted Oct. 4.

It was officially an act of clemency to mark Tuesday's 34th anniversary of the start of the armed insurrection against French colonial rule, but the move appeared designed to encourage a high turnout Thursday in a referendum on constitutional

changes.

Voters are being asked to consider measures which will make the prime minister and his government answerable to the elected National Assembly, but the result has increasingly been seen as a vote of confidence in Benjedid's leadership.

On Sunday — a day before announcing the releases — the president sacked his unpopular deputy and another leading member of the government.

The action was seen as intended to demonstrate he would keep his word on introducing real

change to one-party rule in Algeria.

In the head of state's traditional Nov. 1 address to the nation, Benjedid said:

"These reforms serve only the general interest and will continue in the framework of constitutional legality."

Posters plastered to the walls of the capital proclaimed: "For the future, for democracy."

Benjedid restored order by pledging political freedoms to complement a tough economic reform drive which sparked the violence

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey rejects Amnesty report

ANKARA (R) — Turkey Wednesday dismissed an Amnesty International report accusing it of continued torture as a product of opposition influence. "We have not yet examined the full report but our first impression is that it is a document influenced by the opinions of certain groups which are known to operate against Turkey," Foreign Ministry spokesman Inal Batu said. "We would like to repeat our earlier position that we do not attach undue importance to such documents, which do not fully reflect the realities in Turkey," Batu said.

U.N. envoy visits Damascus

BEIRUT (AP) — United Nations envoy Jean-Claude Aime left for Syria Wednesday on the second leg of a mission to explore ways of helping Lebanon out of a political crisis that threatens its partition of the country. He held day-long talks with leaders of Lebanon's rival governments Tuesday, but there was no official word on his discussions.

Iranians stage anti-U.S. rally








NICOSIA (AP) — Thousands of Iranians chanting "Death to America" staged a rally in the compound of the former U.S. embassy in Tehran Wednesday to mark the 1979 seizure of the mission by militant students, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The embassy was stormed by followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini Nov. 4, 1979, and 52 U.S. diplomats were held hostage for 444 days. IRNA said the rally was held two days early because this year's anniversary falls Friday.

China jails Iranian for cheque frauds

PEKING (R) — A Chinese court Wednesday sentenced a 25-year-old Iranian to eight years imprisonment for entering the country on false passports and committing 37 cheque frauds in Peking hotels and banks. The Peking Evening News said Mohammad Imami entered China with fake Saudi Arabian and Pakistani passports and cashed travellers cheques that had previously been reported lost to obtain 130,000 yuan (\$35,000).

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JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 73111-19 PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 Koran 15:30 Children's programmes 16:00 Local programme 17:30 Programme on Jordan 18:00 News summary 18:05 World Reports 18:20 Local programme 19:15 Health programme 19:40 Programme review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Arabic series 21:00 Programme review 21:40 Programme on Islamic art 22:30 Film in Arabic 23:10 News summary in Arabic 23:10 Film (cont.) PROGRAMME TWO 17:30 Des chiffres et de lettres 18:00 Adventure voyages 18:30 Rie Carrot 19:00 News in French 19:15 Un DB De Plus 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Varieties 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Bill Cosby Show 21:10 Beauty and the Beast 22:00 News in English 22:30 Feature film: "Mistress" RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.0 KHz, SW Tel: 74111-19 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsdesk 07:30 Morning Show 08:00 News Summary 08:05 Morning Show Cont. 11:00 Country Music 11:30 Hisville: The story of Motown 12:00 News Summary 12:05 News Summary 12:30 Pop Session 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Insurance 14:30 Comedy 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:05 Instrumentals 16:30 Old Favourites 17:00 Animal, Vegetable, Mineral 17:30 Good Vibrations BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1323 KHz 06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Sportsround 06:45 Peaches' Choice 06:50 Peaches' Choice 07:00 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 07:30 Financial News 07:40 Newsdesk 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Smith and Son 08:40 The Farming World 09:00 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 09:30 Just Plain Madness 09:45 Network UK 10:00 World News 10:05 Sportsround 10:15 Sportsround 10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:05 11:10 British Press Review 11:15 The World 11:20 Newsdesk 11:30 World News 11:35 Sportsround 11:45 Society Today 12:00 News Summary followed by Assignment 12:30 The Million Pound Radio Show 13:00 World News 13:05 News about Britain 13:15 News Ideas 13:25 Book Choice 13:30 Citizens 14:00 Radio Newswire 14:15 Multitrack 14:45 Sports Roundup 15:00 World News 15:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 Jazz Scene UK 16:00 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News 16:05 Write On... 17:30 Radio Newswire 17:15 The Pleasure of the Humpty 22:00 World News 22:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 22:30 Meridian 23:00 News Summary followed by Talking From... 23:15 A Jolly Good Show 24:00 World News 00:05 The World Today 00:25 Radio Choice 00:30 Financial News 00:40	VOICE OF AMERICA MW 1260 & 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Jordanian delegation leaves for Tunis talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian economic delegation representing the private and public sectors left Wednesday for Tunis to take part in the fourth meeting of Arab businessmen and investors due to open Saturday.

The delegation will submit a report on Jordan's economic experiment and the incentives the Kingdom offers to investors from Arab and foreign countries.

The delegation will also explain Jordan's recent economic measures and their beneficial results on the industrial economic commercial and tourist activities in the Kingdom.

The team will hold talks with various Arab delegations to discuss Jordan's economic cooperation with their countries.

The Free Zone Corporation (FZC) will also take part in the meeting.

The three-day meeting will discuss coordination of investments in the Arab World, according to the corporation's Director Yassin Al Kayed who left Wednesday to attend the meeting.

The meeting, which is being organized by the Arab League in cooperation with the Arab Federation of Arab Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Chambers of Commerce, is to be attended by representatives of major economic organizations in the Arab World.

Government announces public holiday on Nov. 14

AMMAN (Petra) — All government departments and public institutions will be closed Monday, Nov. 14, on His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, according to an official communiqué issued by the prime minister's office Wednesday.

Another communiqué which was approved by the council of ministers said Wednesday that the government has endorsed a civil aviation deal concluded last August between Jordao and Yugoslavia.

According to the deal contained in a memorandum of understanding, both sides will take a number of measures that would be conducive to developing bilateral cooperation in civil aviation.

Ministry will not change hummus, shawerma prices

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Supply Abdul Salam Kanaan has issued specific instructions to directors of supply in various governorates requiring that all local unclassified restaurants adhere to price rates that existed before Oct. 15, 1988, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

hummus) remain at 170 fils per dish.

Earlier there were public complaints in the local press that the price of popular foods had gone up, and appeals were made for the Ministry of Supply to intervene and stop such practices.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Supply said that all meat prices sold by popular restaurants specially shawerma will remain the same and that large quantities of chick peas with which Hummus is made are available at the ministry's warehouses and sold at JD 175 per tonne, according to Petra.

The agency said that, accordingly, teams of inspectors in various regions have embarked on tours to ensure that the instructions are being implemented.

It said the instructions specifically rule that the prices of popular food like (hummus, foul,

New executive chef at the Amman Plaza Hotel

MR. WINFRIED Helmetag has recently joined the Amman Plaza Hotel as the executive chef.

Before joining Plaza, Mr. Helmetag worked in a number of countries including West Germany, Egypt and Dubai.

He was also Executive Sous Chef at the prestigious Portman Intercontinental Hotel in London. His last position, before joining Plaza, was at the famous Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland as Executive Chef, and we know that through his knowledge, ability and extensive experience, a new dimension will be added to the high standard and quality of cuisine at the Plaza.



Ministry takes steps to upgrade courses at community colleges

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Ministry of Higher Education Wednesday held a one-day seminar for deans of public and private community colleges in Jordan to explain the new curricula which will be applied by these colleges and measures that will be taken to upgrade their courses.

Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad addressed the opening session, explaining that new plans are still experimental and subject to amendments, and therefore the deans were welcome to offer their assistance to the ministry and contribute to the success of the new plans, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Assad criticised as little and insufficient the number of credit hours for specialised subjects at community colleges and said that they merely formed 50 per cent of the total number of credit hours taken by the students in their training courses, the agency said.

The seminar, according to Petra, aims to orient the deans on the new curricula and to seek their help in implementing the ministry's plans.

Earlier this year, the minister was quoted as saying that the Ministry of Higher Education was

involved in measures for promoting the work and the quality of the community colleges. Assad told a meeting to discuss college programmes that certain criteria would be followed by all the 57 community colleges in the Kingdom, which offer training to some 40,000 students in various specialisations.

Assad was also quoted as saying that a greater measure of cooperation between the colleges and the four Jordanian universities would be introduced to allow college students to continue their higher studies at these universities.

Wednesday's seminar was broken up into two sessions one of which was devoted to discussing the new courses and the other tackled the role of deans of colleges in their implementation, according to Petra.

It said that a second seminar for community colleges will be

held on Nov. 9 and will be attended by heads of various departments at the community colleges, to discuss the new curricula and teaching methods.

At least 150 participants were expected to take part in the second seminar which will also last for one day, the agency said.

Petra said that a third seminar will be held during the holiday that follows the first academic term, and it will be attended by the teaching staff of community colleges.

It said in the two-day meeting participants will be divided into

for groups to discuss programmes, academic and engineering courses, vocational and paramedic courses, commercial and business as well as social studies.

The third seminar, according to Petra, is aimed to orient the teaching staff on the new teaching methods, and training programmes.

According to the agency, the three seminars are in implementation of recommendations by the first national educational conference which was held last year.

Assad, Iraqi delegation discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting Iraqi educational delegation Wednesday called at the Ministry of Higher Education and discussed bilateral cooperation with the minister, Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad, and senior officials.

Later the delegation held a meeting with the ministry's Secretary General Ahmad Al Bashairah with whom they reviewed cultural and educational cooperation between Iraq and Jordan.

Bashairah presented a briefing

on the ministry's achievements in the past years and its future plans which include laying down a new higher educational policy for Jordan.

Bashairah also outlined his ministry's cooperation with foreign universities and in organising scholarships for Jordanian students.

The delegation later called at the higher teachers training college and met with its dean, Dr. Afif Abdul Rahman.

Touqan pays tribute to social, voluntary unions

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Fawwaz Touqan Wednesday paid tribute to Jordan's social and voluntary workers employed by the local sector, and said that their task complements that of the Ministry of Social Development.

The Ministry of Social Development will ensure and guarantee the freedom and independence of the private voluntary and social work and considers it

as complementary to that carried out by the government and not serving as rival to it, Touqan said at a meeting held at the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), attended by GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib and heads of private voluntary organisations and charitable societies.

"Voluntary work in Jordan has won total confidence of His Majesty King Hussein since it

proved to be a creative work and contributing to the process of construction and development," the minister noted.

Therefore, Touqan said, the Ministry of Social Development will spare no efforts in extending help and support to GUVS and all the various societies working under its umbrella.

Jordan, the minister noted, "has all along enjoyed stability and security amidst a turbulent

ocean of confusion and lawlessness, thanks to His Majesty King Hussein's leadership and guidance who has led his country with care and wisdom," the minister said.

Khatib addressed the meeting, emphasising the fact that GUVS operations are clearly aimed to serve the public and will remain complementary to the government's endeavours.

Madaba spends JD 500,000 for hospitals, health centres

MADABA (Petra) — The Health Department in Madaba district last year spent JD 500,000 on expanding hospitals, building the integrated health centres and primary health care centres in

Madaba district, according to the department director.

He said that the Jamil Tutunji Hospital has been enlarged and several wings have been added and new equipment installed.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

ART EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A paintings exhibition by Sudanese artist Mohammad Khalil, at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmed Na'wash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Iyad Al Masri at the Housing Bank Complex.

OTHER EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A book exhibition at the civilian wing of Mu'ta University.
- ★ Islamic book exhibition at the Islamic Cultural Centre for Men in Karak.
- ★ A library cultural festival at the public library in the Municipality Building of Kufrajeh, Ajlous — 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A feature film entitled "Romancing the Stone" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

SOAP BOX DERBY

سباق سيارات الدربي

احضر عائلتك للتعيش بشاعة سباق سيارات الدربي في منطقة عمان الوطنية يوم الجمعة ٨٨/١١/٤ الساعة الثالثة بعد الظهر.

وينتصن السباق الجوائز التالية:

- (١) تذكري سفر كلب: كلاب ذليلا وابلا مقنعة من البوط
- (٢) تذكري الجولف: عمان - لندن - عمان
- (٣) تذكري الحفلات: عمان - لندن - عمان
- (٤) تذكري الحفلات: عمان - لندن - عمان

واحدة في فندق عمان المارايوت مع وجبة العشاء

(٣) قضاء عطلة نهاية الاسبوع في فندق عمان المارايوت مع وجبة العشاء

(٤) هذا وسينح الفلترين الثلاثة الاول كوس بهبة التيسية

ومن الاشتراك للمرة الواحدة ٥٠ ديناراً

للمزيد من المعلومات الرجاء الاتصال بباقي السبلات الملكية الاردني

هاتف رقم ٨١٥٣٦١

يقدم ربح الفائز لجميع الحسنيين لجمعية السوفين حركيا

The 1988 Soap Box Derby will be held at the Amman National Park on Friday 4th November 1988 at 3:00 pm.

Bring the Family and have a great afternoon.

Entrance fee per Soap Box is JD 50.

For more information contact the R. A. C. J. at Tel: 815261

Prizes:

- Two Club Class return tickets Amman - London - Amman, on British Airways.
- Amman Marriott Hotel New Year Package to include breakfast.
- Weekend stay at the Amman Marriott's Hotel to include Dinner and Breakfast.
- Trophies for both crew members for the first three places, presented by Amman Marriott Hotel.

All proceeds go to Al-Hussein Society for the Education and Rehabilitation of the physically Handicapped.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary issue No. 378

Drawing of: Nov. 2, 1988

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. **52764**
Wins JD 25,000

Holder of ticket No. **13301**
Wins JD 6,000

Holder of ticket No. **36585**
Wins JD 3,000

Holder of ticket No. **15911**
Wins JD 2,500

Holder of ticket No. **36643**
Wins JD 1,500

Holder of ticket No. **09603**
Wins JD 1,200

Holder of ticket No. **13924**
Wins JD 1,000

Holder of ticket No. **10319**
Wins JD 600

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD1,000 each wins JD 100
52765 52774 52864 53764 62764
52763 52754 52664 51764 42764

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 600 each wins JD 60
13302 13311 13401 14301 23301
13300 13391 13201 12301 03301

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 300 each wins JD 30
36586 36595 36685 37585 46585
36584 36575 36485 35585 26585

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20
15912 15921 15011 16911 25911
15910 15901 15811 14911 05911

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD150 each wins JD 15
36644 36653 36743 37643 46643
36642 36633 36543 35643 26643

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD100 each wins JD 10
09604 09613 09703 00603 19603
09602 09693 09503 08603 79603

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8
13925 13934 13024 14924 23924
13923 13914 13824 12924 03924

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7
10310 10329 10419 11319 20319
10318 10309 10219 19319 00319

Ticket numbers **49381 41890 60386 66001** win JD 200 each

Ticket numbers **54602 03197 30165** win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

6945 6901 5590 3246 4822 Win JD 20 each

2516 4915 5986 0456 8852 Win JD 10 each

547 325 600 441 347 Win JD 5 each

8000 tickets ending with **5** Win JD 2 each.

COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS

40 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in **666 731 905 800 465** Win JD 10

Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number **377** of Oct. 17, 1988

Ahmad Salih Amman - Merchant Half first JD 12,500	Karim Mohammad Amman - Labourer Half first JD 12,500	Safiya Hassan Amman - Student Full second JD 6,000	Ammar Sabeton Amman - Student Full third JD 3,000	Khaled Ziyad Zarqa - Employee Full fourth JD 2,500	Mohammad Stout Ajlous - Salary owner Half first JD 750	Jura's Serhan Amman - Mechanic Half first JD 750

Next Drawing takes place on **Nov. 17, 1988**

First eight biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

جوردن تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Moderation vs. extremism

THE results of the Israeli general election would tend to indicate that, at worst, a majority of Israelis adheres to rigid rightwing policies that are against peace and justice for all the peoples of the area, and, at best, that the political stalemate in Israel will preclude any movement towards a negotiated Arab-Israeli settlement in the near future.

The Israeli electorate continues to reflect long-term trends that first appeared with the rise to power of the Likud in the late 1970s: a strengthening of rightwing, militaristic and messianic sentiments, and a fragmentation of more liberal sentiments in the centre and left of the political spectrum.

In the face of a continuation of this trend, the Arab World must react in a rational and meaningful manner, one that would strengthen our long-term political aspirations while remaining faithful to the principles and concepts that have guided us to date.

The political position which the Arab World has advocated since the Fez summit of 1962 remains correct and valid. We should continue to advocate movement towards a negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in a manner which adheres both to Arab demands for Palestinian national rights and for the sovereign rights of existing Arab states, as well as to principles of international political legitimacy which have been universally accepted for many years.

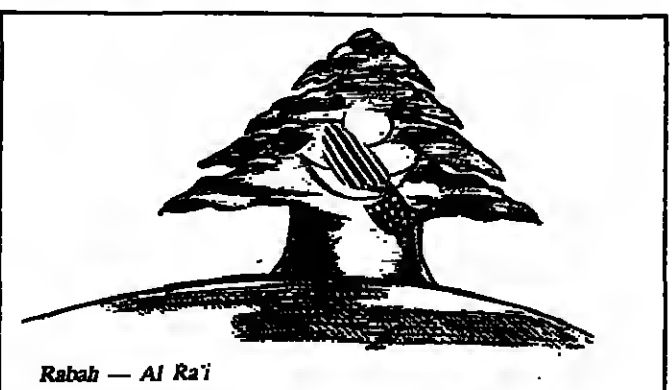
If the people of Israel indicate that they are not yet ready for an honourable peace based on justice for all, we should take this as an opportunity to reaffirm once again our concept of peace with justice. Our concept is morally right, and one day it will also prove politically fruitful — no matter what the people of Israel do in their mood of political extremism and indecision.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Leading Arabic daily newspapers Wednesday commented on Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's statement to Reuters news agency in which he tackled the situation in the Middle East, relations with the PLO and the Israeli elections.

Al Ra'i daily echoed Rifai's remark that a victory for the Likud would mean a recipe for disaster because, it said, the Likud leaders have been bent on destroying all chances for peace based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242. The present Israeli policies spearheaded by the Likud, the paper said, can by no means help the cause of peace, and therefore a Likud victory would spell out disaster for the peace prospect. As Prime Minister Rifai said the Likud's continued rejection of peace based on justice and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights means a clear orientation towards war and continued acts of aggression against the Arabs, and continued occupation of their territory, the paper noted. The Likud's position, the paper concluded leaves the Arabs only with one alternative: to fight and to maintain the struggle with all their might to regain their rights and their usurped lands.

Al Dustour daily said that a victory for the Likud means a loss of any chance for peace in the Middle East, but a victory for Labour can by no means lead to peace next day. Jordan the paper added, monitors the presidential elections in the USA as does the outside world especially as the Middle East question could be on the top of priorities before the new man in the White House. Both elections are important and could bring about a change in the political map of Israel or the USA, the paper noted. It echoed Rifai's hope that cooperation between the two superpowers would undoubtedly help to bring about a just solution for the Middle East problem like did to other regional issues. The paper concluded by reiterating that Jordan continues to adhere to its position of demanding a just and lasting peace, and regardless of who wins in either election, it believes that peace can only come through an international conference in which all concerned parties are represented, in order to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 that can end the Arab-Israeli conflict.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Municipal reforms

THE editor of Al Dustour daily writes Wednesday about the future role of municipal councils in Jordan in the light of recommendations and resolutions passed by a seminar on the work and projects of the Amman, Zarqa and Balqa governorates. The recommendations clearly indicate a new orientation in the council's work which is to be decentralised as far as possible and which will be entrusted with the task of carrying out regional development and introduce reform on a large scale, the writer notes. Therefore it becomes imperative that local councils in different areas join their resources and efforts and form integrated units to provide better municipal services to the public, the writer suggests. He says, for the merged councils to do a good job, one expects that their staff be offered better qualifications through training, and that their cadres be given the chance to acquire further education about the council's financial administrative and legal affairs. If the recommendations adopted by the seminar are implemented, the writer concludes, then one can expect a real development in the social and economic fields not only in the three regions but throughout the country as a whole.

Italy, the land of diversity, assumes major global role

Jordan Times editorial page editor Abdulla Hassanat recently made a tour of economic and political institutions in Rome and Turin, and provides the following observations on one of the world's most complex and dynamic societies:

WOULD you believe that Pope John Paul II is communist? Of course not; The head of the Roman Catholic Church can be anything but certainly not a communist.

But Sacha, a student of medicine at the University of Rome, is convinced that the Polish-born Pope is red. "Why do we have all those Poles in the streets of Rome?" she asks.

Sacha is a new Italian breed — neofascists. Like many of the disgruntled in affluent Europe she blames her ill-fortune on foreigners. "We have a communist pope now; next will have a black one," she protests.

Like Le Pens' brand of extreme right in southern France, Sacha comes from Napoli, where North African and less-skilled Italians are concentrated. Italy has witnessed, during the first half of this year, a number of racial incidents. In one incident, a coloured woman and her child were chased out of a public transport bus in Rome because of their colour.

Most Italians, however, are tolerant of foreigners. Unlike Sacha they know that foreigners, in Italy and elsewhere, only do menial jobs — jobs that locals shun.

But because Italy's health, educational and transportation sys-

tems are not among the best in Europe, lower class people are dissatisfied. This dissatisfaction is further aggravated by the fact that Italy is growing wealthier and wealthier. In the past 10 years Italy jumped from the rank of the seventh industrialised nation to the fifth. And the affluence is uncontainable in Italy.

So why then did a country as rich as Italy fail to accord its citizens, especially southerners, the benefits of the welfare state enjoyed by other Europeans? Many, especially outsiders, would argue that Italy's "unstable" political system was responsible. Not so, maintains Dr. Enrico Foschi, president of the Parliament Journalists Association.

"On the contrary," he says, "the political system is very stable. The political parties in power are the same since the end of the war."

Despite the fact that Italy had 48 governments in 40 years, power in Italy was maintained in the hands of mainly the Social Democrats in coalition with other parties, and since the sixties in coalition with the Socialists.

The communists, although kept out of national political power, until recently had control over the majority of Italy's municipal councils.

On foreign policy the parties differ but do not part. The spectrum of political agenda is not so wide. The Christian Democrats

wholeheartedly back for the Western alliance (NATO).

The Socialists only want a fair deal; while the communists had, over the years, accepted that Italy is a Western nation and that its defence must be maintained within the framework of the Western alliance.

And while Italians of post-World War II wrangled over consecutive coalition governments, programmes, industry kept the pace; thanks to the Marshall plan and as initial injection of \$10 billion during 1948-1952. It is in fact industrial reconstruction in 40 years that lifted Italy to the rank of the fifth industrialised nation.

This Italian miracle owes it to giants like FIAT, IRI and ENI, and to a banking system that, although slow and inept, is formidably huge.

The giants

Alitalia, the national carrier, the tenth ranking airline in the world, is owned by IRI, Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale, (Institute for the Reconstruction of Industry). "IRI owns 80.7 per cent of the airline's shares," said one Alitalia official who did not want to be identified.

IRI, a conglomerate state holding company, was responsible for the reconstruction of post-war Italy. At the moment IRI activities amount to seven per cent of the fixed investment and four per cent of employment and value-added. IRI also runs and owns IRF, Italian television and radio, all public transport and the whole network of telephones.

IRI also owns 45 per cent of the Italian motorway network, and 17 per cent of domestic banking

operations, including 14 per cent of lira deposits. The company has 100 per cent of the shares in iron, 55 per cent of steel, seven per cent of hot rolled steel.

The company's net foreign sales for the year 1986 stood at \$7.2 billion.

Another public holding giant is the ENI (Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi), group, Italy's leader in the field of oil exploration, refineries, shipping and distribution. It owns the oil giant Agip.

ENI is also in petrochemicals. "ENI was established in 1953 to guarantee Italy's energy supply," said Claudio Caponi, the company's Middle East and North Africa area manager.

It was ENI companies that laid the "lid of the sea" — the pipeline that carries Algeria's oil and gas to Europe. ENI is the sixth biggest international oil company. Another giant is FIAT.

FIAT owned by the Agnelli family, tops this year's autosales in the European market with a sizeable 16 per cent, up from 14.3 per cent in 1987. This achievement against tough competition from West German and Japanese car manufacturers is testimony to the country's advancement in technology. In the domestic market FIAT registered a growth of 31 per cent, an indicator of the growth of wealth in the Italian society.

Italy's trade with the world is handled by the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade (ICE). "ICE has 170 offices abroad," according to Dr. Ferruccio Sarti, the organisation's deputy director. "Our offices collect information about prospects for Italian exports," he said.

But despite the efforts of ICE Italy is also in the red; deficit equals gross national product and banks are swollen with deposits because of restrictions on interest rates. The economy needs some reforms and this is the aim of Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita.

Unless the monetary system is reformed there are fears that by 1992, when national borders will be dismantled in Europe, the system won't be capable of sustaining the realities of a totally free European market.

Another task that the government is tackling is the reform of parliamentary system, vote shares and secret balloting. According to Dr. Stefano Rizzo, secretary to the Chamber of Deputies, "the old voting system protected parliamentarians against bullying from their own party, other parties (neo-fascists) or organised crime."

Many law enforcement officers, judges, parliamentarians and even politicians have lost their lives to organised crime or terrorist groups.

However, at a recent voting at the Chamber of Deputies, de Mita was able to push through a bill abolishing secret balloting.

These are two very sensitive issues. Another task that awaits de Mita or any other prime minister is to spread industrial growth, concentrated mainly in the north, to the south. One industrialist boasted that Rome was already ringed by industry.

But south of the capital, industry is still not as advanced as in the north because, some say, the purchasing power of people north of Italy is stronger than neighbours in North Africa.

But Italians have also interests in the south; in North African and the Arab World. Giants like FIAT, ENI, and IRI are looking for more investment opportunities in the Third World.

So inspite of Sacha's fears of communist or black popes, the Italians, in parliament, government or industry, are looking ahead for a brighter future. Their relation and proximity to Africa and the Arab World put them in a unique position. Italy a long-time leader in European affairs since it extends into the Mediterranean like a bridge between North and South.

As the world shrinks and barriers are dismantled, perhaps, in a decade or two Italy will have a black pope, an affluent society, many North Africans running the wheels of Italian industry — and a certain Dr. Sacha running a clinic for the less-fortunate African blacks.

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Israël: courte victoire du Likoud

Les élections législatives israéliennes tenues le 2 novembre ont donné une courte majorité de 39 sièges au Likoud (droite) de l'actuel premier ministre Yitzhak Shamir contre 38 sièges au parti travailliste de Shimon Peres, ministre des affaires étrangères, dans un parlement qui compte 120 sièges.

Pour former un gouvernement qui puisse gouverner avec le parlement, il faut donc former une coalition afin d'atteindre le seuil majoritaire de 61 sièges. Le Likoud pourrait l'atteindre en s'alliant avec l'extrême-droite (7 sièges) et les religieux (18 sièges), formant ainsi un groupe majoritaire de 64 députés. Le parti de M. Shamir semble en effet avoir plus de chance que son rival d'emporter le soutien des groupes religieux. Mais certains responsables de ces partis ont d'ores et déjà émis des réserves quant à cette hypothèse.

En Jordanie en revanche, le ministre des Affaires étrangères a réagi avec inquiétude à l'hypothèse, vraisemblable selon lui, d'une coalition Likoud-religieuse: "Nous pensons qu'un tel gouvernement anéantirait les efforts de paix (...). Shamir et les partis de droite ont prôné un usage accru de la force contre le soulèvement avant les élections et il est fort probable qu'il continuerait dans cette voie", a-t-il déclaré.

Le Roi Hussein lui-même avait estimé le 2 octobre dans une interview à la chaîne américaine ABC que la victoire du Likoud coïnciderait un "désastre absolu".

A l'OLP, on décrit la demi-

victoire du Likoud comme un "coup fatal à la paix", tout en appelant à la poursuite du soulèvement dans les territoires occupés. "Il faut s'attendre à plus de sévérité, de haine et de terrorisme d'un gouvernement du Likoud", dit l'agence de l'OLP Wafa.

En Egypte, le ministre des Affaires étrangères Boutros Ghali a déclaré: "L'Egypte traitera avec le nouveau gouvernement israélien quel qu'il soit, (...) afin de parvenir à un règlement pacifique du problème palestinien sur le principe de l'auto-détermination".

Le parti travailliste israélien est favorable à une conférence internationale de paix et à l'échange de la terre contre la paix. Le Likoud s'oppose à ces deux propositions et appelle à des négociations directes israélo-arabes, prônant une auto-détermination limitée pour les Palestiniens.

Ils envahissent les foyers et les entreprises

Ordinateurs individuels: luxe ou nécessité?

Exemptés de taxes depuis 1986, les ordinateurs individuels s'installent dans les foyers jordaniens aisés, où la "bête" se doit de trôner non loin de la chaîne hi-fi et du magnétoscope. Même si son utilisation n'est pas toujours flagrante. Les entreprises et les écoles sont elles aussi friandes de ces "PC" à tout faire.

De par le monde, les ordinateurs domestiques, tous genres confondus, semblent envahir les foyers aussi bien que les bureaux, et la Jordanie est loin d'échapper à cette épidémie. Classe à part dans l'immense ensemble du matériel informatique, ces appareils également appelés micro-ordinateurs, ne sont plus simplement PC (de l'anglais Personal Computer) trouvent principalement leur place dans les petites entreprises ainsi qu'à la maison.

Si l'utilité d'un ordinateur dans une grande entreprise, une banque ou une importante organisation n'est plus à prouver aujourd'hui, cela reste moins évident pour une entreprise. Quant à la maison...

M. Rawhi G., comptable habitant Marka, ayant acheté un IBM-compatible (le standard le plus répandu) fabriqué à Singapour explique: "C'est pour mes enfants, afin de les initier à l'informatique, ils en auront besoin un jour." M. T., chef de service dans une banque à Amman, est encore plus direct et déclare sans humour: "Je n'en ai pas réellement besoin, mais c'est pour ne pas me faire idiot..." Un autre cas très significatif et rencontré à

maintes reprises à Amman est celui de l'employé de banque achetant un PC afin de mieux maîtriser l'informatique, pour être plus performant sur l'ordinateur central de la banque et rivaliser ainsi avec ses collègues voire les dépasser. Statistiquement parlant, les hommes constituent plus de 90% des acheteurs. Conséquence directe de cet état de choses, l'attachement du mari au PC donne parfois à sa conjointe l'impression de vivre dans un ménage à trois.

Ce qui semble donc prévaloir chez l'utilisateur particulier est le besoin ou pas d'exploiter à proprement parler le PC, mais davantage celui de se familiariser avec la "bête" afin soit de la maîtriser ou de l'utiliser pour le plaisir, soit encore afin d'être prêt à s'en servir le jour où un besoin réel se fera sentir.

Pour le "standing"

Mis à part les raisons susmentionnées et le traitement de texte (logiciel qui peut être utile à un grand nombre de personnes, plus particulièrement en Arabie où l'ordinateur se charge, à la place de l'utilisateur, de faire la liaison entre les lettres selon leur position dans le mot), il existe peu de situations où un PC est vraiment indispensable à la maison. Mais tout compte fait, on y réfléchissant bien, on trouverait facilement plusieurs autres appareils domestiques ou ménagers qui seraient bien plus utiles que le PC.

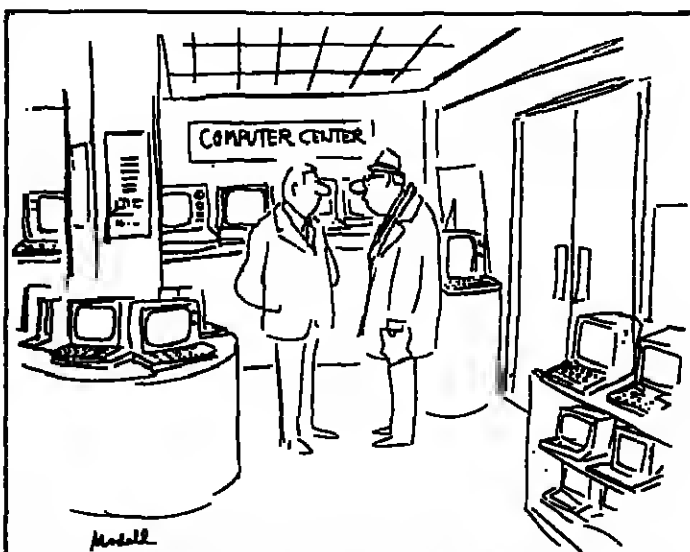
Signe de "standing" social au même titre que la célèbre voiture allemande à l'étoile triangulaire? Objectif convoité que l'on installe, inerte, à côté d'une chaîne haute

fidélité et que l'on montre fièrement à ses amis? Mode passagère? Si le PC en Jordanie est parfois un peu de tout cela, il n'en reste pas moins que pour l'utilisateur privé, ce n'est pas encore l'appareil électro-ménager qu'il peut acheter à la légère. La machine compatible de base est vendue à 500 dinars jordaniens environ. Prix qui peut atteindre le triple si toutes les options sont retenues. L'imprimante, quasi indispensable, coûte de 200 à 500 dinars.

Apple, Radio Shack et Commodore furent les pionniers de ce mouvement, apparu en 1979 et suivi depuis par une multitude de constructeurs, y compris le grand IBM lui-même. Certaines de ces machines ont atteint une puissance de traitement suffisante à la gestion des moyennes entreprises. Trois éléments ont contribué à l'expansion du marché PC.

Progrès du matériel d'abord. Eo valeur-type, la vitesse de traitement a été multipliée par 50, la capacité mémoire par 20 et la capacité de stockage des disques par 100. A cela s'ajoute une fiabilité accrue, des écrans plus lisibles, une conception plus esthétique et une liste d'équipement optionnel à redoubler de puissance.

Le deuxième élément est le prix d'achat. Il est difficile d'établir des comparaisons exactes en ce sens, mais on peut dire à titre d'exemple qu'un PC de base est aujourd'hui moins coûteux qu'une machine à écrire électronique de haut de gamme. A la fin de l'année 1986, le gouvernement jordanien a exempté les ordinateurs de droits de douanes, ce qui, combiné à la baisse des prix



"Je voudrais un ordinateur qui m'aide à choisir mon ordinateur": la plupart des acheteurs manquent de discernement

d'usine, à la source, a sensiblement augmenté les ventes de PC dans le pays, plus particulièrement dans le secteur privé et chez les étudiants.

Le troisième élément est la présence de deux grands standards mondialement reconnus et présentant chacun des avantages différents: le système compatible IBM et le système Apple. Pour chacun de ces standards, il existe littéralement des milliers de programmes couvrant les besoins les plus divers, allant des jeux électroniques aux systèmes-experts hautement sophistiqués.

Maîtrise de l'Arabe

Depuis 1986, il existe également des logiciels (programmes) d'arabisation qu'il suffit d'installer sur un PC pour pouvoir l'exploiter en Arabe, ceci bien entendu en plus de la présence standard des langues utilisant les caractères latins. La disponibilité de ces logiciels bilingues permet aux écoles en Jordanie de s'équiper progressivement et systématiquement de PC, en vue de la formation des élèves sur le matériel.

Les entreprises jordaniennes qui n'avaient pas de PC en acquièrent un. Celles qui en avaient un en achètent souvent plusieurs pour permettre au plus grand nombre d'employés de s'en servir. L'opération ne se fait pas toujours sans douleur. La présence du PC crée parfois des dissensions internes, et le cas-type du comptable craignant de se faire remplacer par la machine

se rencontre en Jordanie aussi fréquemment qu'en Europe.

La plupart des constructeurs de PC sont présents dans le pays. Le représentant d'une grande marque européenne ou jordanienne affirme que souvent, le client ne sait pas choisir la machine qui lui conviendrait mieux, mais ce n'est pas non plus comment l'expliquer. Ce cas est courant chez le client qui désire utiliser l'ordinateur à la maison, moins courant lorsqu'il s'agit d'une société privée s'équipant.

Une bonne utilisation des PC ne va pas sans formation. Si ce problème est généralement bien résolu pour un grand ordinateur, projeté, en théorie, tout a été prévu, la facilité d'achat du PC masque les difficultés de son exploitation, du moins pour le profane. L'initiation à l'informatique commencée dans les écoles jordaniennes constitue dans ce sens un pas très important pour le futur.

La tendance semble de toutes manières irréversible, et les Jordaniens découvriront, ce qui se soit à la maison ou au travail, qu'ils doivent non seulement vivre avec l'ordinateur mais de préférence faire bon ménage avec lui. Il s'installe dans leur vie au même titre que la voiture, la télévision, menaçant dans un proche avenir de les contrôler directement tous les cinq, voire de remplacer les quatre derniers, ceci selon les prévisions les plus schématiques.

Jean-Claude Elias

EN BREF

"Clip" arabe pour le Likoud

La musique de fond qui accompagnait les slogans du Likoud dans ses émissions de propagande télévisée dirigée vers les électeurs arabes d'Israël est celle d'un chant révolutionnaire exaltant les hauts faits des chefs de la grande révolte arabe de 1936 en Palestine.

Le Likoud ne s'est aperçu de cette bêtise qu'à 48 heures du scrutin, et l'affaire fait des gorges chaudes au sein de l'électorat arabe d'Israël. L'un des refrains du chant est: "Où est ton drapeau, ô Palestine?"

Mitterrand et les Palestiniens

Les ambassadeurs arabes en poste à Paris se sont "frottés" le 27 octobre des "prises de positions justes et courageuses" du président François Mitterrand sur les droits du peuple palestinien, dans un communiqué publié à l'issue d'une réunion du corps diplomatique arabe. Recevant le président israélien Haim Herzog, le président Mitterrand, tout en réaffirmant le droit d'Israël "de vivre en paix, derrière des frontières sûres et reconnues", s'est prononcé pour le droit des Palestiniens "de vivre dans une patrie, sur une terre qu'ils estiment être la leur, et d'y édifier les structures d'Etat qui leur conviendraient".

Nouvelle-Calédonie: référendum le 6

Les Français sont appelés le 6 novembre à répondre par oui ou par non au projet de loi instituant de nouvelles institutions et prévoyant en 1998 un scrutin d'auto-détermination en Nouvelle-Calédonie. Un "oui" majoritaire entraînerait la mise en application des accords intervenus le 20 août entre MM. Tjibaou et Lafleur, respectivement chefs de file des indépendantistes et des loyalistes, sous les auspices de Michel Rocard, à la suite d'affrontements meurtriers sur l'île. Ces accords prévoient notamment de nouvelles institutions améliorant la représentation des mélanésiens, la mise en place d'un nouveau découpage de l'île, un programme de développement, l'indemnisation des victimes et une amnistie (excluant les crimes d'assassinat). Et surtout, ils stipulent la tenue en 1988 d'un scrutin d'auto-détermination, qui décidera de l'indépendance du territoire ou de son maintien sous souveraineté française. Y participent les résidents domiciliés sur l'île depuis dix ans au moins. Le "non" entraînerait un retour au statut précédent.

Vous écrivez?

"Le Jourdain", recherche des collaborateurs ayant des idées originales d'équipes et reportages, en free-lance. Contacter le Jordan Times et demander François Ducroux.

Le saviez-vous?

Motos bannies

Pourquoi voit-on si peu de motos et autres deux-roues sur les routes de Jordanie? Mohammed Tjibaou, de la Chambre de commerce, explique que depuis quelques années, les permis sont accordés au compte-gouttes. Motif: les nuisances. "Il y avait notamment des bandes de jeunes nouveaux-riche qui quittaient la capitale, géant la circulation et empêchant les gens de dormir. Désormais, pour piloter un deux-roues, il faut justifier, auprès du gouverneur, de motifs professionnels. Les motos ne peuvent donc être conduites que pour le compte de sociétés ou du gouvernement. Et on ne compte que quatre ou cinq importateurs à Amman."

MANGER



Hashem: retiens la nuit

Où peut-on, à 3h00 du matin, partager le bon repas et le thé avec un gardien de nuit, un noctambule éméché et un professeur d'université? Au restaurant Hashem, en basse-ville, en face de l'hôtel Cliff. Niché au fond d'une impasse, l'endroit ne paie certes pas de mine: néons blafards, formica griseuse et chaises branlantes dans un local que trente personnes suffisent à border. Mais le restaurant Hashem est le seul établissement d'Amman qui puisse se targuer d'être ouvert 24h/24 et 365 jours par an.

Ouvert en 1956 par les frères Turk, le restaurant sert jour et nuit un hommos et un foul réputés parmi les meilleurs de la capitale. On y trouve pêle-mêle des journalistes de télévision, des gardes du palais royal tout proche, des pochards et des touristes. M. Turk, jovial patron à la bedaine rebondie solidement

N.B.: Le restaurant Hashem ne sert boire que du thé.

FIGURE

Brel, l'écorché vif

"Ne me quitte pas" et "Le port d'Amsterdam" ont fait le tour de la planète: immortalisant le "grand Jacques" Brel, chanteur écorché du "plat pays qui est le mien", la Belgique. Avec son sourire d'ogre, son regard d'une intolérable lucidité, Jacques Brel, les poings serrés sur le micro, exorcisait son éternel mal de vivre en chantant crûment les "pamés du petit matin", la détresse des bars d'alcooliques et la fugitive tendresse de prostituées à la chair flasque. Un Brueghel de la chanson, qui savait aussi peindre l'amour cruauté ("La vie ne fait pas de cadeau"), ne naît jamais au ridicule ("Je vous ai apporté des bonbons, parce que les fleurs c'est périssable...").

Il surgit dans les années 50 à Paris, côtoyant Georges Brassens et Léo Ferré, éblouissant les foules de sa voix trop grande pour lui, dans son costume trop petit, toujours une mandarine cigarette posée près de sa longue carresse. Celle qui aura raison de ses jours le 9 octobre 1978. C'était il y a dix ans, le grand Jacques avait 49 ans, mais il avait quitté le micro dès 1967 pour

Brel: dix ans déjà parcourir les mers turquoises à bord de son voilier, délaissant Brueghel pour Gauguin. Il ne revendra que pour mourir, comme un cheval égaré.

Radio Jordan consacrera le 13 novembre son Sunday evening show à Jacques Brel (22h-23h). Jean-Pierre Maury, responsable de la Cellule audio-visuelle régionale, répondra aux questions de Samir Kamal.

A L'AFFICHE

CONCERTS

Duo Jazz

Gebhard Ullmann (saxophone, flûte) et Andreas Willers (guitare, basse à rythmes) jouent un jazz minimaliste d'avant-garde, alliant densité rythmique et échappées solos. Plusieurs fois primés en RFA.

Samedi 5, 20h00, hôtel Amra. Billets: 3 JD, en vente à l'Institut Goethe.

Stop making sense

Concert filmé des Talking Heads, groupe phare de la "new-wave" new-yorkaise ("Psychokiller, qu'est-ce que c'est?").

Centre américain, mardi 6 à 19h00.

CINEMA

La vieille fille

De Jean-Pierre Blanc, avec Philippe Noiret et Annie Girardot (1971): la rencontre entre un célibataire endurci et une femme d'âge mûr.

CCF, lundi 7 à 20h00.

Le juge et l'assassin

De Bertrand Tavernier, avec Isabelle Huppert et Michel Galabru: l'arrestation et la condamnation d'un ancien serpent par un juge.

CCF, mercredi 9 à 20h00.

Ciné-club

(Séances respectivement à 19h00, 19h30, 20h00) Le 3: Red Heat, Death Wish, X Y Z, French Connection, The Thief of Baghdad, Le 4: Ghany, High risk, Blue Soldier, Convoy, Spies, Le 5: For more dollars, Scarlet Runner, Play it again Sam, Hunger, Conspiracy, Le 6: Mad Max, The Exorcist, Amazing Captain Nemo, Assassins by order (F), Love and bullets, Le 7: Out of the dark, the fall of the house of Usher, Zelig, The Tower, The Tower, The Tower, Le 8: Love and bullets, Le 9: Omega man, Harem, Alien, The great train robbery, Blue Japoon. Tous ces films sont en version originale, sous-titrés en français. Le 7: Out of the dark, the fall of the house of Usher, Zelig, The Tower, The Tower, The Tower, Le 8: Love and bullets, Le 9: Omega man, Harem, Alien, The great train robbery, Blue Japoon. Tous ces films sont en version originale, sous-titrés en français. Le 7: Out of the dark, the fall of the house of Usher, Zelig, The Tower, The Tower, The Tower, Le 8: Love and bullets, Le 9: Omega man, Harem, Alien, The great train robbery, Blue Japoon. Tous ces films sont en version originale, sous-titrés en français.

TELEVISION

"Les familles du chapelet", de Claude Chabrol, avec Michel Serrault et Charles Aznavour: une série d'assassinats de vieilles dames, égarées avec une corde de violoncelle, en décembre. Toutes ont été élevées dans le même couvent. Lettre de l'assassin: "A moins qu'on ne fasse des bébés, il n'y a plus qu'une victime sur la liste". Et rien n'est plus fréquent qu'une bébête... (JTV, vendredi 4 à 17h30)

Les produits importés de 20 à 40% plus chers

Prix: la valse des étiquettes

Moins de trois semaines après la décision de la Banque centrale de faire flotter le dinar, entraînant une chute de près de 20% de la monnaie jordanienne face au dollar, une hausse sensible des prix se fait sentir dans les supermarchés d'Amman. Il apparaît que de nombreux fournisseurs ont passé outre l'interdiction d'augmenter les prix de produits déjà en stock avant le dernier glissement du dinar. Et qu'ils ont eu la main lourde...

"Mes enfants mangeront moins de fromage Philadelphie, il est devenu trop cher", annonce Yousef Abu-Abdulla, gérant du supermarché Al-Waha, au 7ème cercle. Dans ses rayons, la petite boîte de fromage à tartiner a fait un bond de 625 fils à 925 fils. Soit une augmentation de près de 50%, intervenue la semaine dernière, alors que le dinar a perdu moins de 20% de sa valeur face au dollar depuis le 15 octobre.

"Chaque jour amène ses nouvelles livraisons, avec leur cortège d'augmentations", fulmine, factures à la main, M. Fuad, directeur d'un grand magasin d'alimentation au djebel Weibdeh. Une tablette de chocolat grec, encore vendue 300 fils au début du mois est désormais proposée pour 500 fils au client, qui pourra méditer cette augmentation de 66% en déglutissant ses chères sucres.

M. Fuad estime le taux moyen des augmentations de 30 à 40%. Même constat chez ce commerçant de djebel Hussein. Il note une hausse des prix de 25% pour les détergents importés, de 20% pour les piles et lames de rasoir. Mais le rayon le plus sinistré, dans tous les magasins visités, est celui des fromages, qui ont joué en quelques semaines l'ascension de l'Everest. Avec une palette d'or pour le fromage pâte cuite emballé sous vide Longhorn, qui accuse dans certains établissements jusqu'à 90% d'augmentation!

Haro sur les grossistes

Certes, le fromage ne se stocke pas longtemps et il a fallu réimporter depuis le 15 octobre, en payant la facture avec un dollar devenu plus cher. "Mais cela ne justifie pas ces hausses de prix disproportionnées par rapport à la baisse réelle du dinar. Surtout pour des produits couramment

stockés pour 3 ou 4 mois par les grossistes, comme les boîtes de conserve ou la lessive," s'insurge M. Abu-Abdulla. Attention, certains produits comme les moulinets en papier Incuux (Fine, Soft, etc.) ont augmenté peu avant la chute du dinar, en raison d'une taxe nouvelle imposée le mois dernier sur les importations, en l'occurrence de pulpe de papier (310 fils contre 280 fils la boîte de 200).

Mais que dire des haricots, champignons et autres thons en boîtes qui ont augmenté deux fois en un mois, alors que, selon les commerçants de détail, les stocks sont abondants chez les grossistes? M. Abu-Adulla, à l'unisson avec ses confrères, est furieux contre ces derniers: "Au niveau du commerce de détail, nous sommes tous contrôlés par les inspecteurs du ministère de l'approvisionnement. Toute augmentation de produits achetés avant la hausse est sanctionnée. Mais cette interdiction s'applique aussi aux grossistes et le ministre serait bien avisé de jeter un oeil plus attentif sur eux. Ils répercutent déjà les effets de la chute du dinar, alors qu'ils ne les subissent pas encore. Ils profitent de la situation psychologique pour

faire monter leurs prix sans aucune raison." Sans aucune raison? Selo le Dr. Faleh Faleh, chroniqueur économique, les grossistes ont négocié d'augmenter leurs prix dès maintenant, afin de financer leurs prochaines livraisons de produits importés, donc la facture sera en hausse. "S'ils ne le font pas, ils travailleront à perte," estime-t-il. Mais il juge que dans l'immédiat, des hausses supérieures à 20% sont injustifiées.

Elles semblent d'ailleurs modulées en fonction des quartiers: selon une enquête du quotidien Rai, la flambée est plus sensible dans les supermarchés de djebel Amman et de Shmeissani que dans les boutiques en basse-ville. Dans les magasins des beaux quartiers, de nombreux consommateurs interpellés ont d'ailleurs avoué ce pas avoir remarqué les augmentations...

Le shawarma touché

La physionomie des étalages va-t-elle se modifier? M. Abu-Abdulla affirme que pour l'instant, son magasin ne prévoit pas de stopper ou de réduire les commandes de tel ou tel produit importé. "Novembre ne verra pas de grands changements. Les

clients se changent pas leurs habitudes d'achat du jour au lendemain. En décembre, nous assisterons à la fin d'année. Il faut donc attendre janvier pour voir la situation se modifier," dit-il.

Et alors? "De toutes façons, on ne peut pas se passer de certains produits importés, tels les laitages," répond-il dans un sourire désarmé. D'ici là, le dinar aura peut-être remonte...

Quotidien aux consommateurs attentifs, ils sont inquiets: "Avec les produits importés, tout va augmenter. La plupart des productions locales sont à base de matières premières importées. Et la hausse va se répercuter sur le prix des loyers, des services. Les salaires augmenteront-ils en conséquence?" s'interroge l'Uo d'ouv. D'ores et déjà, le "shawarma" est passé de 170 fils en moyenne à 200 fils la semaine dernière. Quant à l'assiette de hommos, elle accuse une hausse idéologique. Une bonne nouvelle cependant: ni le café ni le sucre, importés par le ministère de l'approvisionnement, n'ont bougé. A tout seigneur tout honneur.

Suleiman Swiss

François Ducroux

Le panier de la ménagère

Voici, à titre d'exemple, quelques produits victimes de la "valse des étiquettes" remarqués dans plusieurs supermarchés d'Amman. Il s'agit évidemment d'augmentations constatées ponctuellement, et toute généralisation serait abusive, au moins dans l'immédiat. Nous ne mentionnons pas le nom des magasins concernés afin de ne pas leur porter préjudice. Il est à souligner qu'aucun commerçant rencontré n'a fait mystère de ces hausses, parfois vertigineuses, intervenues ces deux dernières semaines.

Produit	avant	après
Fromage Rameek	420 fils	590 fils (+40,5%)
Thon Geisha (200 g)	420 fils	650 fils (+54,7%)
Chocolat Break	450 fils	650 fils (+44,4%)
Lessive Persil (3 kg)	2.050 JD	2.400 JD (+17%)
Adoucissant Softener	900 fils	1.370 JD (+52,2%)
Désinfectant Dettol	350 fils	390 fils (+11,4%)
Lessive Safety	1.850 JD	2.220 JD (+20,3%)
Lessive Nido	3.050 JD	3.180 JD (+4,3%)
Thé Lipton (100 sachets)	1.500 JD	1.750 JD (+16,6%)
Fromage Philadelphia	625 fils	925 fils (+48%)
Fromage Longhorn	890 fils	1.300 JD (+46%)
Fromage Kraft (15 tranches)	640 fils	895 fils (+39,8%)



Une hausse disproportionnée par rapport au glissement du dinar

OPEC to keep \$18 oil price

OSLO (R) — OPEC Secretary-General Subroto said Wednesday that the group would keep aiming at an oil price of \$18 a barrel, despite a slump in crude prices blamed chiefly on OPEC overproduction.

Subroto, an Indonesian, spoke to reporters on arrival in Norway at the start of a two-day visit to discuss Oslo's cooperation with the 13-nation group.

Asked whether the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) might consider dropping the price level of \$18 a barrel that it has pledged to defend, Subroto said:

"Eighteen dollars is still the target we are shooting at."

Oil prices are currently just above \$12 a barrel.

He also gave an upbeat assessment of efforts to resolve disagreement on production quotas between Iran and Iraq — perhaps the major stumbling block to any new OPEC pact.

"Efforts are being made on the diplomatic level... a very active diplomatic effort to solve this," Subroto said. He gave no further details.

Iraq at present refuses any quota, saying that it should be allowed equality of production with Gulf war foe Iran.

Iran, historically a bigger producer, has rejected that as unfair.

A meeting last month of OPEC's pricing and long-term strategy committees sought to devise a new basis for fixing output quotas on which all 13 OPEC states could agree.

But it failed to bring Iraq back into the fold, something which may now be left until a key ministerial meeting which starts

in Vienna Nov. 21.

Asked if the ministers' meeting would be "make or break" for the group, Subroto said: "I would like to see make rather than break... we are all endeavouring to bring some order to the market."

He estimated demand for OPEC oil at between 18.5 and 19 million barrels per day (b/d) in the fourth quarter. OPEC currently has a production limit of 15.06 million b/d, excluding Iraq, but oil market analysts say total OPEC production is well above 20 million b/d.

Subroto said he had come to Norway, Western Europe's biggest oil producer after Britain, to try to persuade Oslo to continue production.

Norwegian Oil Minister Arne Oeien last month threatened to drop a 7.5 per cent cut in planned production growth, introduced in February 1987, unless OPEC restored internal discipline.

"I have come... to renew the cooperation between OPEC and Norway," Subroto said. "Both Norway and OPEC are in the same boat. If they can work together to stabilise the market, it would be to everyone's advantage and would help us strengthen the market."

In another comment, Iranian President Ali Khamenei blamed the superpowers Wednesday for instability on the world oil markets, Tehran radio reported.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Philippines appeals for new loans

MANILA (AP) — President Corason Aquino appealed Monday for new loans in advance of a scheduled visit by an International Monetary Fund (IMF) panel to determine whether the country should qualify for additional money. Aquino said in a statement that her government had taken steps to comply with IMF recommendations on economic reform and desperately needs new loans to finance land reform, health and education. The Philippines owes about \$28.5 billion to foreign banks.

Soviet inflation runs between 0.9-1.5%

MOSCOW (R) — Inflation in the Soviet Union is running at between 0.9 and 1.5 per cent largely because of the disappearance of cheap goods, Soviet Finance Minister Boris Gostev said Tuesday. The minister told a news conference it was difficult to put an exact figure on inflation because there was no special index to record it. The percentage variation was due to calculations based on separate baskets of goods, he said. "We do have inflation in the Soviet Union, but it is of a different nature to that in Western countries," Gostev said. "It can be seen in structural changes in our market — not so much in higher prices as in the disappearance of cheap goods." Last month, Soviet statistician Nikolai Belov announced plans to develop a price index based on annual economic performance. He said a number of enterprises were introducing price rises without good reason to resolve their problems.

New Iraqi bank launches activities

BAGHDAD (R) — A second Iraqi commercial bank, Al Rasheed, began operations in Baghdad Tuesday with a nominal capital of 100 million dinars (\$320 million). A senior source at the bank's capital headquarters said it would conduct all types of commercial banking services in other domestic and foreign branches starting next January. Creation of the bank will break the monopoly on Iraqi commercial banking by the Rafidain Bank since the nationalisation of banks in 1964. Western banking sources said the new bank was part of a campaign which President Saddam Hussein started last year to improve the economic efficiency of state-run enterprises.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday Nov. 2, 1988 Central Bank official rates Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	447.0	449.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	338.5 360.7
Pound Sterling	793.2	797.2	Dutch guilder	223.5 224.0
Deutschemark	251.4	252.7	Swedish crown	72.4 72.8
Swiss franc	299.3	300.8	Italian lira (for 100)	33.9 34.1
French franc	73.7	74.1	Belgian franc (for 10)	120.0 120.4

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australian stocks closed lower in another day of cautious and lacklustre trading. The All Ordinaries Index closed down 5.5 points at 1,579.4.

TOKYO — Prices ended the day slightly lower, breaking a seven-day winning streak after a strong start. The Nikkei Index closed down 28.41, at 27,985.26.

HONG KONG — Prices drifted lower in dull trading and thin turnover. Brokers said the market's quiet tone reflected caution ahead of the U.S. presidential election. The Hange Seng Index fell 7.61 to 2,607.82.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed marginally lower across the board on lack of buying interest and light institutional sales. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 2.55 to 1,030.12.

BOMBAY — Share prices rose sharply for the second day in a row on hectic speculative and investment buying. Brokers said sustained buying by state-owned financial institutions chiefly boosted the market, which suffered a setback last week.

FRANKFURT — Profit-taking by domestic and foreign investors drove West German shares to a sharply lower close in active trading. The Real-Time 30-share Dax index closed at 1,288.55, 22.24 points below Tuesday's close.

PARIS — French shares ended firmer in thin trade with interest after the long weekend focused on Societ Generale in an otherwise featureless market. The 50-share bourse indicator ended 0.56 per cent up.

LONDON — Growing bearishness over the dollar and realisation U.K. interest rates would not come down in the near future pushed shares lower. By 1550-GMT the FTSE 100 was 18.5 points off at 1,839.3.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks continued to show small losses in thin trading with one analysts saying shares could stay in this range until after next Tuesday's elections. The Dow Jones industrial average was down two at 2149.89.

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	663191	Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation	603507
Ministry of Supply	602121	Free Zones Corporation	642001
Ministry of Finance	634321	Amman Financial Market	660170
Ministry of Planning	644466	Amman Chamber of Commerce	666151
Ministry of Labour	663186	Amman Chamber of Industry	644747
Ministry of Communications	847391	Association of Banks in Jordan	662258
Ministry of Agriculture	639391	Jordan Association of Insurance Companies	647370
Income Tax Department	660151	General Statistics Department	846171
Central Bank of Jordan	630391	Jordanian Businessmen Association	680663
Amman Customs Department	772181		
Social Security Corporation	643000		
Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation	721194		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.773040	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.226070	Canadian dollar	
	1.781017	Deutschemarks	
	2.008898	Dutch guilders	
	1.497389	Swiss francs	
	37.32/35	Belgian francs	
	6.0790/0840	French francs	
	1323/1324	Italian lire	
	124.80/90	Japanese yen	
	6.1750/1800	Swedish crowns	
	6.6230/80	Norwegian crowns	
	6.8650/8700	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	412.70/413.20	U.S. dollars	

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for Nov. 2, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	790615	JD 1029393	949
Top three companies:			
Arab Bank Limited	1320	JD 176013	83
Aladdin Industries	61799	JD 82306	78
Darco for Housing and Investment	108150	JD 68500	66
Parallel market:	17698	JD 8486	—
Development bonds:	2450	JD 25698	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—

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ABOUT LAST NIGHT

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Cinema NIJOUM

Tel: 675571

THE MISSION

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema PLAZA

Tel: 677420

STAKEOUT

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Jerash rally set for November 11

The last of the Jordan Rally Championship events for 1988 organised by the Royal Automobile Club will be the Jerash Rally set for Friday, Nov. 11, and sponsored by Universal Auto Centre in Amman.

This rally is 250 kilometres long and includes three special stages where drivers will go through these stages three times making the total of nine special stages.

The cars will take off from the Universal Auto Centre on the University Road at 09:00 a.m. driving towards the Jerash Rest House for regrouping and will go back the same route to the Finish point at the Auto Centre in Amman.

For this event the rally headquarters as well as the rally press office will be at Jerash Rest House where results will be announced all during the day.

It is worth mentioning here that for the first time in Jordan a group "N" car will participate in this rally driven by Mazen Da-

jani. As it has been announced previously during 1988 all cars of group "B" will not be allowed to take part in the future rallies, but with a permission from FISA those cars can still run in the national and international rallies in Jordan without scoring any points. This will take effect beginning of 1989. Only cars of groups "A" and "N" will be officially accepted to participate in the future rallies.

The number of cars expected to enter this rally is 20-25 and among the entrants who have registered up till now are: Issa Halabi, Haidham Mufit, George Khayyat and Mazen Dajani.

Members of the public are advised to watch the rally either at Jerash Rest House or on the Jerash road just before the Zarga River which is also one of the special stages. It is important to remind the public to keep away from the roads for their own safety.

Platini called on to save national team

PARIS (R) — The shock appointment of Michel Platini as national team chief was France's only chance of qualifying for the 1990 World Cup, French Football Federation President Jean Fournet-Fayard said Wednesday.

Platini, 33, who retired from soccer last year after a dazzling career, was named to replace Henri Michel, under heavy fire since a 1-1 draw with Cyprus 10 days earlier put France's World Cup hopes in serious jeopardy.

"I was very shaken by the Cyprus result and I thought something exceptional had to be done," said Fournet-Fayard in justification of the sudden decision to shake up the organisation of the national team.

"I thought that only the presence of Michel Platini could do that for us," he added. "The aim of qualifying is important and urgent. I think Michel (Platini) has a big enough personality to remove a certain number of

obstacles around the French team."

Platini takes charge immediately as the team prepares for a vital World Cup qualifier against Yugoslavia in Belgrade Nov. 19. Scotland and Norway are in the same group from which two teams will qualify for the finals in Italy.

"If there had not been a Michel Platini in the country, I cannot say for sure that Henri Michel would have been replaced as team chief," Fournet-Fayard said.

Michel retained his administrative post with the federation as national technical director. Platini, who has no coaching diploma, is unable to take on the title of trainer, a role which is expected to be filled by former Paris Saint-Germain coach Gerard Houllier.

The news of Platini's appointment came as a bombshell in France because, even though it

was clear Michel's place was no longer secure, the former Juventus star had never showed any interest in the job or any other trainer's post.

It is virtually unprecedented for a major soccer nation to appoint such a young and, in coaching terms, inexperienced team chief.

But French soccer officials decided a drastic solution was necessary to prevent the national team sinking into obscurity after the recent glory years.

Since winning the European championship in 1984 and reaching the semifinals of the last two World Cups, a Platini-less France has produced a series of dismal performances.

With few players of quality to choose from, the signs are that Platini will persuade his former midfield colleague Jean Tigana, 33, to return from international retirement to captain the team.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Newcastle name reserve coach as manager

LONDON (R) — Newcastle reserve team coach Colin Suggett is to be the English first division soccer side's new manager, the club announced Tuesday night after the projected appointment of former Celtic boss David Hay fell through. Newcastle Chairman Gordon McKeay confirmed the board had come to an agreement with Hay, and then received more demands from him which "were unacceptable to the club." Suggett takes over from Willie McFaul, who was dismissed three weeks ago as manager of ailing Newcastle, 18th in the 20-team division.

Sabo named baseball's 'Rookie of Year'

NEW YORK (AP) — Third baseman Chris Sabo, who batted .271, hit 11 homers and drove in 44 runs for the Cincinnati Reds, was named the Jackie Robinson National League Rookie of the Year Tuesday by the Baseball Writers Association of America. Sabo received 79 points and 11 first-place votes from a panel of 24 writers, two from each league city. First baseman Mark Grace of the Chicago Cubs was second with 61 points and right-hander Tim Lincecum of the Los Angeles Dodgers was third with 35. "I'd rather play for wins than personal awards and all that stuff," Sabo said during the season. The Reds finished second in the NL West for the fourth consecutive year. Sabo stole 46 bases, tied for fourth in the league and the most for a Reds rookie since Bob Descher's 54 in 1909. He hit 40 doubles, third in the NL behind Andres Galarraga's 42 and Rafael Palmeiro's 40.

Edberg takes a fall at Stockholm Open

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Unseeded Paolo Cane of Italy stunned Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg in three sets in a second-round match of the \$642,500 Stockholm Open-Scandinavian Tennis Championships Tuesday night.

Cane, who was ranked only 101st in the world going into the tournament, won 4-6, 6-3, 6-1. It was only the second time Edberg dropped his opening match in a tournament this year, having lost to Australian Mark Woodforde in three sets at the Canadian

Open in early August. Cane, a 23-year-old from Bologna, had previously beaten players like Pat Cash (Australia) and Joakim Nystrom (Sweden). But this was his biggest win.

"I had nothing to lose and I played very relaxed," said Cane. "I knew I had a chance to beat him if he didn't serve well."

Edberg didn't, especially in the third set. The Swede, ranked third in the world and a two-time defending champion here, was broken three times in the final set by the Italian Davis Cupper.

"He played with his heart today. I didn't," said Edberg, who had beaten Cane last time in the Seoul Olympics in late September.

"It felt very heavy out there. I wasn't motivated. If you don't fight, you can't win tennis matches."

Edberg, seeded second here, said he has simply played too much in the last five weeks. After the Olympics, where he was a semifinalist, he

played a Grand Prix tournament in Switzerland and exhibitions in Peking and Hong Kong.

"I haven't had time to rest," he said. "Tonight, I didn't feel at home although the fans tried to fire me up during the match."



Stefan Edberg, before the fall.

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Tender No. 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43/D/88

The Ministry of Education announces that the last day for purchasing documents for the tenders no. 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43/D/88 will be Nov. 10, 1988 and will be submitted at the Ministry of Education at 12:00 O'clock Nov. 22, 1988.

Director of Tenders
Committee of the
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By Harris



"I got you a doggy chew bone so you'll have something to gnaw on besides my nerves!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YESIT
JAHAR
HOWALL
PYSEDE



COULD THIS BE ANOTHER NAME FOR THAT HEALTH CLUB?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THE "HEALTH CLUB"

Yesterday's Jumble: WHINE - SYLPH - JUSTLY - QUARRY
Answer: What the stand-up comedian quips himself with - QUIPS.

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BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K1074 ♥ K ♣ 83 ♦ J96742
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♥ Pass Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q3 ♥ Q84 ♦ AKQ107 ♣ 1065
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9652 ♥ J3 ♦ 852 ♣ AQ73
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What do you bid now?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you

hold:
♠ J932 ♥ 73 ♦ 852 ♣ KJ762
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 5 ♥ K106752 ♦ 952 ♣ 873
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K3 ♥ 532 ♦ AK92 ♣ 943
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take? Look for answers on Monday.

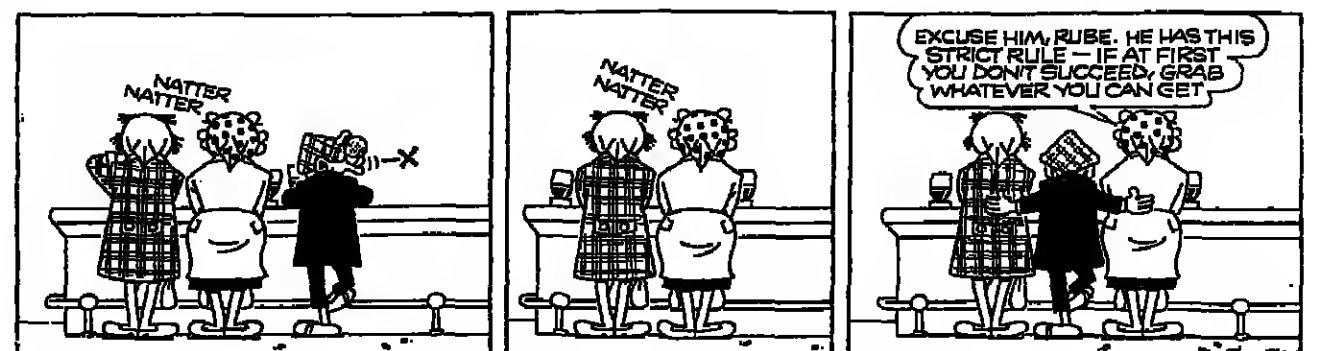
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



India, Norway locked in row over heavy water

OSLO (R) — Norway and India traded charges Wednesday over reports that 15 tonnes of heavy water, which can be used to make atomic weapons, was illegally rerouted to Bombay in 1983.

The head of Norway's Foreign Affairs Committee said he suspected the water, produced by industrial giant Norsk Hydro A/S, might have been used to make atomic weapons. The government promised to demand an explanation from India.

But India, which denies it possesses nuclear weapons, denied Norwegian charges the water had been rerouted to Bombay in violation of international regulations.

"Reports that India had imported heavy water from sources other than the Soviet Union are aimed at maligning this country," S. Rajagopal of India's Atomic Energy Commission told Reuters in Bombay.

He added India imported only small quantities of heavy water, which can be used in making plutonium, from the Soviet Union under the strict safeguards of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Conservative former Prime Minister Kaare Willoch, now

head of parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, told Reuters: "We suspect that the Norwegian heavy water (sent to India) may have been used to make atomic weapons."

Norway's assistant state prosecutor Tor Aksel Busch said Tuesday the heavy water, sold to a West German firm Robstoff-Einfuhr GmbH in December 1983 by Hydro, travelled from Basel, Switzerland, to Bombay on a flight which also carried several tonnes delivered from the Soviet Union.

Hydro has manufactured about 450 tonnes of the water since the early 1950s. Duesseldorf-based Robstoff-Einfuhr, owned by West German businessman Alfred Hempel, imports and distributes materials for scientific research.

International regulations forbid the shipment of more than one tonne of heavy water to India, which has refused to sign a nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) aimed at halting the

spread of nuclear weapons.

"We will raise the issue with India to clarify what has happened," Trade Minister Jan Balstad said in a statement.

"It is very regrettable that Norwegian heavy water seems to have gone to a country that has not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty," he added. "This is not a nice affair for Norway."

Balstad said Norway would probe further with Swiss and West German authorities to clarify what happened to the water. "We still don't know if Bombay was the final destination," he said.

Busch's comments were the first official confirmation of previous allegations in the Norwegian and foreign media, denied by India and the West German firm that purchased the water. India denies having atomic bombs, but carried out its first nuclear explosion in 1974, saying it was for peaceful purposes.

Norway was the world's leading producer of heavy water, also known as deuterium oxide, in the 1950s but has since been overtaken by many other countries. It insists any water sold must be used for peaceful purposes only.

Marcos co-defendants still at large

NEW YORK (Agencies) — While former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos tried to come up with \$5 million bail Tuesday, eight of her co-defendants remained at large outside the United States, a prosecutor said.

"There are arrest warrants out for all of them," said assistant U.S. attorney Charles Labella, who is prosecuting the racketeering case against Mrs. Marcos, her husband, Ferdinand, and five alleged co-racketeers, including financier Adnan Khashoggi.

According to Labella, the defendants at large in the case still have the option of surrendering, although no timetable has been established for that procedure.

At some point, all will be subject to arrest, he said.

Each defendant will have to come to federal court in Manhattan for arraignment before Judge John F. Kenan, just as Mrs. Marcos was required to do, Labella said.

There could also be problems with extraditing the other defendants that were not faced with Mrs. Marcos, who has been living in Hawaii with her husband since their government was overthrown in 1986, he added.

In addition to Khashoggi, 53, the others still at large are Philippine businessman Glicerio R. Tantoco; her husband, Philippine ambassador to the Vatican Bien-

venido Tantoco Senior; their son, Bienvenido "Rico" Tantoco Jr.; Philippine businessman Roberto S. Benedicto; California overseas bank official Rodolfo T. Arambulo; Khashoggi employee Karl Bock Peterson; and Panamanian attorney Alberto Arias.

Tantoco, his wife, Khashoggi, Benedicto and Arambulo are named in the racketeering indictment.

On Monday, Mrs. Marcos — wearing a regal blue gown and black high-heeled shoes — pleaded innocent to charges she and her husband pillaged the Philippine national treasury of \$103 million and funneled it into the United States.

The front, which opposes the pact, denies responsibility. It is demanding the government's resignation and the holding of fresh general and presidential polls.

The government has set Dec. 19 for presidential elections and President Junius Jayewardene said last week he was ready to call parliamentary elections if the front stopped its killings and joined the political process.

Police said the front triggered an explosion Wednesday which blasted a police vehicle, injuring six policemen, at Eppawala in the north-central Anuradhapura district.

They also said it was also responsible for the theft of 450 weapons during an attack on a military training camp in central Sri Lanka Tuesday. Four soldiers, four rebels and a civilian were killed in the attack.

Polish unions unite in battle for Gdansk

GDANSK (R) — Solidarity joined forces with Poland's official OPZZ trade unions Wednesday to stop the closure of the Lenin shipyard where the banned union was born in 1980. Solidarity leader Lech Walesa said.

Walesa said thousands of Solidarity supporters and OPZZ members rallied at the yard and agreed on joint action to save it from the Dec. 1 shutdown ordered by Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski.

Shipyard Director Czeslaw Tolwinski meanwhile

announced he had refused to carry out the liquidation of Poland's biggest shipyard, saying it was economically unjustified. Management had a plan to save the yard, he said in a communiqué.

"For the first time we managed to sing in one chorus — management, OPZZ and Solidarity," Walesa told reporters after the gathering.

"We will fight together for the cradle of Solidarity because it (the closure decision) was a political mistake and it should not have happened."

Reporters were unable to

attend the rally. But Walesa said 8,000 to 10,000 men were present and it was the biggest there since Solidarity's heyday in 1980 when strikers forced the government to accept the communist world's first independent trade union.

Rakowski announced the closure of the heavily-subsidised, loss-making yard Monday, saying it was a purely economic move and the first of many closures planned in a long-overdue streamlining of Poland's economy.

Walesa says the move is a

political provocation aimed at the heart of Solidarity and it will cause tension and conflicts in Poland.

Walesa said there were no immediate plans for protests in Gdansk, where British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is due to meet him for talks Friday during a three-day visit to Poland.

The yard's 11,000 employees went back to work after the rally and Walesa said Solidarity and the local OPZZ branch would back the management plan to save their jobs. He did not give details of the plan.

Sri Lankan rebels call for strike

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan government said Wednesday that "subversive elements" were planning to disrupt normal life Thursday and ordered tightened security measures.

"The government has made all preparations and will take all steps necessary to protect the interests of the public," it said in a statement.

A man claiming to speak for the People's Liberation Front called an international news agency in Colombo to announce a general strike for Thursday.

All shops, offices, transport services and other institutions would close, he said, in mourning for the death of a senior front leader and three other people 10 days ago.

Businessmen said they had received notes signed by the front ordering them to close.

"These plans for Nov. 3 of the subversive elements are only forerunners in a planned attempt to disrupt the presidential and parliamentary elections and deny the people the right to vote," said the government after a cabinet meeting.

It blames the largely Sinhalese front for killing more than 500 people, mostly ruling United National Party supporters, since Sri Lanka signed a peace pact with India last year.

The front, which opposes the pact, denies responsibility. It is demanding the government's resignation and the holding of fresh general and presidential polls.

The government has set Dec. 19 for presidential elections and President Junius Jayewardene said last week he was ready to call parliamentary elections if the front stopped its killings and joined the political process.

Police said the front triggered an explosion Wednesday which blasted a police vehicle, injuring six policemen, at Eppawala in the north-central Anuradhapura district.

They also said it was also responsible for the theft of 450 weapons during an attack on a military training camp in central Sri Lanka Tuesday. Four soldiers, four rebels and a civilian were killed in the attack.

Controversy revived over Italian jet downing

ROME (AP) — Italy's defence minister said Wednesday that information supplied by military officials discounts a state television report that a fighter jet from a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) country had downed an Italian passenger jet in 1980.

However, the minister, Valerio Zanone, did not explicitly deny the report. He said he would order a probe into any responsibility by defence officials if a magistrate's investigation of the television report confirmed its accuracy.

The RAI television network's documentary Tuesday night alleged a cover-up about the June 27, 1980, crash in the Tyrrhenian Sea of the domestic DC-9 that killed all 81 people aboard.

It said the fighter jet had fired a missile at a drone during an exercise. And that the missile hit the jetliner instead. A drone is a pilotless remote-control aircraft used for target practice by the Italian air force.

Zanone issued a statement after an urgent Defence Ministry meeting called to discuss the television report. He said the air

force had determined that no Italian or NATO air exercises took place at the time the commercial plane went down.

The defence minister said the command of the U.S. Sixth Fleet also denied that any of its planes or ships were operating in the area at the time.

General Lamberto Bartolucci, who headed the Italian air force at the time of the crash, said the drone mentioned in the report had been launched "seven, eight months before the incident," the Italian news agency ANSA reported.

U.N. to honour Mickey Mouse

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Mickey Mouse won't become a U.N. ambassador after all, but the world body will recognise his six decades in show business with a special award, officials said Tuesday.

Either Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar or James Grant, head of the U.N. Children's Fund, UNICEF, will present a plaque honouring the cartoon rodent as "an emissary of goodwill to the world's children" at a ceremony here on Nov. 17, eve of Mickey's 60th birthday.

An official from Walt Disney productions, suitably clad in a Mickey Mouse suit, will accept the award, officials said.

Michael Eisner, the studio head, planned to fly in from Los Angeles for the event and return there almost immediately for a birthday party the next day on the Disney studio lot.

There were reports last month that UNICEF proposed to design-

nate the famous mouse as a good-will ambassador, joining the likes of Liv Ullmann, Audrey Hepburn and Peter Ustinov, but an agency official said this presented image problems.

John Anderson, UNICEF chief of special events operations, said Mickey's upbeat cheerfulness was inconsistent with the ambassadorial role, which involved highlighting such problems as poverty, disease and disaster.

"Professor Ludwig Von Drake or Jimmy Cricket might be better at that," Anderson said.

Don Scheffey of Disney productions in New York said it would be difficult to make the cartoon character an ambassador "because, clearly, he is different from a human." Scheffey said designating the mouse an emissary of goodwill was an acceptable alternative.

Both Anderson and Scheffey stressed that it was not a case of rejection — simply that UNICEF

had come up with a more appropriate way to honour a unique character.

Anderson said that Disney and UNICEF will be considering several joint projects for the future, continuing an association begun in 1964 when the U.N. agency developed the "it's a small, small world" attraction for the New York World's Fair.

The Mickey Mouse award ceremony here will be filmed for later release in a Disney channel programme on Cable Television.

A 25th anniversary celebration of "it's a small, small world" is planned here next year, he said.

None of this sits well with some of the U.N. brass, information officials said. They said the very idea of the Mickey Mouse tie-in encountered resistance from some U.N. executives who were fearful that political critics might seize on this to call the world body a Mickey Mouse organisation.

Bush, Dukakis envision meeting with Gorbachev

WASHINGTON (R) — Republican George Bush Tuesday pledged if elected president he would seek a get-acquainted meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to discuss arms reductions and human rights.

Bush told an audience at the University of Notre Dame in south bend, Indiana, "We're at a very sensitive stage in the development of superpower relations."

"This is no time for either misplaced hopes or misplaced

fears or total inexperience," a reference to what Republicans charge is rival Democrat Michael Dukakis's lack of foreign policy experience.

Dukakis was asked in a television interview whether he was tough enough to go one-on-one with the Soviet leader.

"I'm looking forward to negotiating with Gorbachev," he replied in the interview taped before Bush's statement. "I think the next president of the United States is going to have an extraordinary opportunity to provide

leadership to build a more stable and a more peaceful world."

Both candidates harrowed vote-rieb midwest industrial states Tuesday, with Dukakis telling one rally: "I smell victory in the air."

But a new poll gave him little backing.

A CBS new poll of 1,065 registered voters conducted Oct. 29-31 and released Tuesday night said the vice-president held a 53-41 per cent lead over Dukakis.

CBS said a shift in voter sentiment remains possible.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Basque guerrillas call for talks

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (R) — Basque guerrillas offered a two-month truce Wednesday in return for talks with the Spanish government on ways to end their 30-year-old war for a separate state. ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) made the offer in a communiqué published in the radical Basque newspaper Egin in which the group claimed responsibility for killing a policeman last week in Bilbao. Interior Minister Jose Luis Corcuera told state radio that ETA should first end attacks before any talks could be considered.

Olivier home from hospital

BRIGHTON (AP) — Actor Laurence Olivier, 81, was discharged Tuesday from a hospital to which he was admitted for blood tests last weekend, a spokesman said. A duty officer at the Royal Sussex Hospital in Brighton, on the English south coast, said: "They were routine tests and as the results won't be available for a few days, Lord Olivier was sent home. He was quite fit enough to go."

Journalist imprisoned in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A black free-lance journalist has been sentenced to four years in prison for failing to report the whereabouts of two suspected African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas. According to testimony, Themba Khumalo was approached in early 1987 by Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela, and asked to help find accommodation for youths fleeing to the Johannesburg area from political unrest in Natal province. The charges against Khumalo concerned two young men whom he subsequently aided. One purportedly confided to Khumalo that he was an ANC guerrilla, while the other purportedly was seen by the journalist handling a firearm.

Salvador rebels attack army target

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Leftist rebels poured mortar bombs into National Guard headquarters in San Salvador Tuesday afternoon, killing four soldiers and wounding at least 37 in their most daring attack in the capital in several years. The raid came hours after El Salvador's new military chief spurred peace talks with the rebels, and two weeks before Latin American foreign ministers were to meet here for the Organisation of American States general assembly.

U.S. reports Panama skirmish

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Defence Department said Tuesday that marine sentries at an air force base in Panama traded gunfire off and on with unidentified intruders for almost two hours Monday night, but no injuries or casualties were reported. The incident was the fourth involving an exchange of gunfire during the month of October and occurred on the southern boundary of a petroleum tank farm at Howard Air Force base, said Fred Hoffman, a department spokesman. "Last night, at about 8:15 p.m., eleven marines in listening posts heard movement, voices and visually confirmed the presence of armed intruders in the jungle," Hoffman said. "When the marines verbally challenged the intruders, the marines were fired on by automatic and small arms fire."

Indian police arrest Sikh militants

CHANDIGARH (R) — Indian police Wednesday arrested three alleged Sikh militants they believe were responsible for two of three bombs that killed 21 people. Police said they arrested the three after capturing a Sikh militant carrying explosives Tuesday night in the northern town of Dharmasala. Bome of the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader. The captured man, who was not identified, named three men under interrogation as being responsible for two bombs which exploded in the Punjab city of Pathankot Tuesday, killing seven people, police said. A third bomb Tuesday caused the worst carnage. It exploded on a bus from Pathankot to Jammu City in Jammu and Kashmir state, killing 14 people and injuring 50.

Students demand arrest of Chun Doo-Hwan

SEOUL (AP) — Thousands of radical students yelling "Arrest Chun Doo-Hwan" threw firebombs at riot police and staged campus rallies Wednesday demanding the arrest of the former president. At Seoul's Yonsei University, 600 students brandishing iron bars and clubs, walked into traffic on a highway in front of the campus and lobbed firebombs over the tops of buses, taxis and cars. Riot police fired tear gas to drive the students back, but in an apparent attempt to avoid a bloody confrontation, stayed on one side of the highway, letting traffic continue much of the time. "Punish Roh Tae-Woo," students yelled, "Drive out the imperialist Yankees."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkeson

TRUCK OR TREAT

By Craig Schultz

- ACROSS
- 1 Laugh loudly
 - 2 Chatters
 - 3 Vagabond tooth
 - 4 Convincing argument
 - 5 Instrumental place
 - 6 Anger
 - 7 Bakery worker
 - 8 Ala, USSR
 - 9 Musical word
 - 10 Yemen port
 - 11 Good reason
 - 12 Pentagon
 - 13 Passes through
 - 14 over (reflex)
 - 15 A few
 - 16 Cautious wall
 - 17 Tissue
 - 18 XXX

- DOWN
- 1 Garment
 - 2 Lulu
 - 3 US president
 - 4 Young lover
 - 5 Raaps
 - 6 Assistant
 - 7 Concocted
 - 8 Ours money
 - 9 Place
 - 10 Severe
 - 11 Sea near Asia
 - 12 Charlie Brown's garden ghost
 - 13 Change
 - 14 Powdered blue glass
 - 15 Ahead of time
 - 16 Sharp knock
 - 17 Telling story
 - 18 — said
 - 19 Arthur — Doyle

- ACROSS
- 23 Family member for short
 - 24 Musical place
 - 25 kahu city
 - 26 Awaits
 - 27 Seamen city
 - 28 Have more power than
 - 29 Beloved of
 - 30 Radicals
 - 31 Series
 - 32 Headless horse
 - 33 World's quarry
 - 34 Borrow
 - 35 Hurrah
 - 36 Usher
 - 37 BPOE word
 - 38 Jazz
 - 39 Always to poets
 - 40 Weddings
 - 41 Offspring
 - 42 Ger. leader

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- 43 Ogle
 - 44 Aromatic resin
 - 45 Ravel
 - 46 Composition
 - 47 Crew
 - 48 Hanoi holiday
 - 49 Golf club
 - 50 Numerical prefix
 - 51 Stage whisper
 - 52 Isaac or Wayne
 - 53 A Castle

- DOWN
- 43 Observed
 - 44 Brave
 - 45 Gaudy city
 - 46 Skim along
 - 47 Legal point
 - 48 Cascade
 - 49 Fern out
 - 50 Flamingo
 - 51 Walking stick
 - 52 Hammer
 - 53 Crude metal
 - 54 Yugoslav leader
 - 55 Bleatful place

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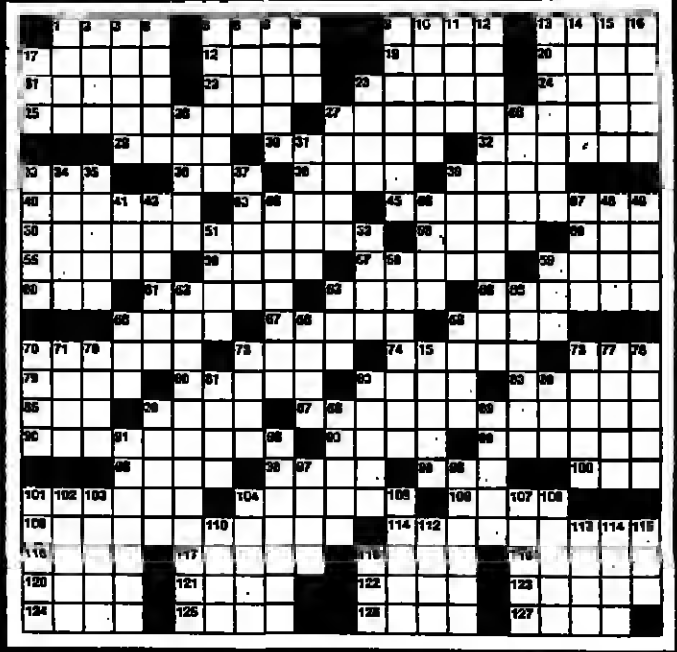
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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Playful scrabble players look for highest counting combinations to make big scores.
2. Titled wizard did not feel fear of tame little deer.
3. Pessimism is probably not too bad when one gets to routinely wallowing there.
4. Tall barber trimmed beard of tomato farmer in old barn.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. Q R I C M U M B D Z H S E H O O L H U L H L D R
- Q B E H E H Q B L M H Y I Q Z Y O
2. S Q U E A K K L I L T V U A R O L B J A Z Z T O O T N A V
- N L X N A B Y L Q Y N S Q I A T J W K T N L X N A B Y
3. S H O R T U S T F S L Y A I Y P D I C R O Y Y H K R P A I N L I
- O K L O I K T D Y N R C T H Y P A N F U L
4. R V G A N I C H Y R N R B A A R A H H P R O A I A S
- R A R A A E S P P M H L O O H P C L I N E

—By Ed Haddaway

—By Ed Haddaway

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—By Ed Haddaway

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—By Ed Haddaway

—By Ed Haddaway

—By Ed Haddaway

—By Ed Haddaway

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—By Ed Haddaway

—By Ed Haddaway

—By Ed Haddaway

—By Ed Hadd